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Letter from Wm. Rotch
Dunkirk, 8th mo 13th, 1792
xxxxx Answd.

WILLIAM ROTCH & SONS
NANTUCKET

Dear Son Saml Rodman

I wrote thee from Liverpool & London but cannot recur to the date: an opportunity now presents pr Capn. Caleb Gardner for Newbury & Nantucket, but I can say little at present for want of time his departure being sudden, & having our very near & dear frd Christiana Hustler and Martha Routh & Wm. Bleckly with us who (expect to leave us tomorrow) will oblige me to be as concise as possible.

I have now before me thy acceptable letters, No. 19 - 20, 21 & 22 4 mo 23d - 5 mo 1 & 9 & 6 mo 15 - in the first place, & the matter of the most importance, is to acknowledge with gratitude the Mercy of Him to whom we owe our lives, and all our dependance, in vouchsafing to raise thus far our dear daughter from her low state, but we are not yet free'd from anxiety on her account finding she gained strength but slowly and remembering our Qly Meetg was approaching & she might, by her care, be overdone, but as thou mentions no distant friend attended the Y Mg, perhaps your company might not be so large nor of that description that might require so much care as sometimes I am very desirous she should pay particular attention to her health; I must again though very reluctantly defer writing to her by this oppty. I do not expect to have time to make answer to thy letter, but shall pick out the most materiale The Maria was to come out of Dock at N. Sheld last 5th day, expect her here in 3 or 4 days, I suppose her repairs may come up to £ 400 Stg. -- I wrote thee (I believe) that I thought it would exceed £300 but they found much more to do than they first expected, I have some time since given up every expectation of selling any more livers in America, as long as the convulsions remain in this Government, am not sorry Anthony's could not find a vessell, The Bill fm Anthonys on Lane & Co. was puncually pd. Wards affairs, with Duers & Co., I understand are provided for in Engd, but know not the truth of it. I am glad to find the fatal infatuation of Speculations in the funds have very little affected friends, I wish we may always be so wise as not to run with the Multitude especially in Stocke Jobbing thou may draw on D. Bauque a Thousand pounds Sterg, when thou think it will do on acct of the Exche. thy draft on Dickison & Co. is accep-

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ted & I have replac'd the money in their hands, but don't make any Speculations for this Country as nothing can be done to advantage. Thos may also now draw on D. Bauques if the Exchange is good for a Thousand as the remr of Stock Profit. I thought at the outfit of the Ships I could send thee a compleat Statement of our property here, but having the Penelope & Hopes Cargoes on hand, deprives me of the possibility; our money in London & her is much diminished on acct of the purchase of the Ann & outfit of all the Ships.--We have now in London, but about four, out of that must come the Maria's repairs & purchase of 100 Tuns Casks frm N. Shields about £ 500 Stg.-- thou may depend on our keeping our Eye on head & foote, when will do ; but as we are only concern'd one half in the Manufactory here, we can do nothing for ourselves or Wm in pressing out the oile here & sending out pressd head or foots, but the oil that comes out of it (if any head of foots sent from here) may be returned in some of the came Casks , the head goes in, to this Port & be duty free, but must be the individuale oile extracted from the shipd from here. I shall attend to the Iron kettle thou writes for,-- also the distillation of water on bd Ships.--
-
Jed Fitches acct is settld & pd & I believe right balce. 396-19-3 . thou must pay Lawrence Crispus order for £30 Lmd as there will be enh & considerable left out of the Penelopes voige & part of his Sons with Isaih Hussey indeed there is almost enh after the discount is deducted on the Ct. of his voige down to the Cantons to pay his account, includg Lawrences which thou sent me say £ 59 odd Lmd wch acct I long since forwarded thee, & only mentiond drawing for the ballance that he might stand the just loss. I will let thee know the whole amt due to Crispus as soon as I can. (3rd pg 1st sh.)
Ezechile Glover forbids any more supplies to his Mother or the family wch please to attend to, & send us the acct down to the time thou receives this. we cannot give Claghorn more than 16 Dollars per Tun, if we had made no provission for the vessell I would have had her built at Havre, where as the exchge now is she would not cost us so much by 25 or 30 per ct as in America & would probably last twice as long, as its not probable we can be ready to return if life and health is spar'd untill the Spring of 94 about 20 or 22 months from this time, if the New Ship could be compleated to the best

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advantage to be here timely for that I should like it, but not less the timber can sufficiently season'd & vessell as much time to be as good as built, boaring the holes for the trunnels whether before of after the planke is on will contribute much to the seasoning. I thinke thou had better make no insure for the future in America if there is time to give us notice here to have it done in London, I had both the Canton & Osprey insur'd in London not knowing thou intended it in America, timely to omit it. all our whole Ships are insur'd, this perhaps, thou will hardly approve; but I thought it really necessary in the present state of things in this Country; I should not have done it on acct of this risque of the Sea, but feard Commissions being granted by Emperour, which if done, would have set many Eng to work, am glad to find it is not so as yet. I thinke by the best calculations I can make, notwithstanding, the many disadvantages we have labour'd under in loss of exchange & heavy sums for Insurance & etc. we have perhaps nearly doubled our Stock, & with this additional advantage, our vessells except the Maria, being all at Sea, and not more than 50,000 lb yet to pay, the Bountys having already been appropriated that way, that if they should be successfull it will add a considerable sum of clear money, but I cannot calculate so fully on the property in oile here on acct of the danger that may attend this as well as other places engg'd in War, knowing that destruction comes sometimes unexpectedly.- I am truly glad that all ccts are settled between Wm & us to his & thy satisfaction; I looke forward with some satisfaction to the time of my leaving the business & retiring, which I wish to be at the return of the Ships for which let this be sufficient notice to thee, I believe its now time for that event, being weary of the concerns of business though very little of the Active part falls to my lot, yet the unsettled state of things here & the depreciating paper system has too engross'd my mind, though it has been in savings rather than in gettings. thou must continue supplies to C. Morelander & others in our employ, but I hope he will not want much as I suppose he sent home considerable money besides paying his account up to that time it was sent. I am pleas'd thou hast done so well with the Bounty warrants, thou has done well in not sell the remr under par, as to the divission of the money, I am much

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better satisfied in the Crew having their share than otherwise altho I suppose it might not have been the intention of the Legelature, but they are poor (or most of them) and not subjects for us to contend with in our situation, & as the Mitchels have done it I wish not to be behind them in any good Act. I am pleased to find Fleming has paid up one of my brother's Notes & that Wm & Ths has the use of it, I intend send thee a state of his acct with me when time, he paid up the whole of the 10,000lb & Interest or loss long since & about 4000lb to me on my acct. I recd the Barle of Sugar very acceptable. we have no use for wt India. when suitable may forward a Bl of maple also some dry Codfish. The Rumour of a Spanish war is groundless, how soon it may take place in the present convuls'd state of Europe is uncertain: but it seems more distant with Spain than it appear'd some time past under the Ministry of Florida Blanco.- I do not expect your market will be gutted with Head Matter timely to worke next winter fm yr Ships gone round Cape Horn, understandg they are generally dull vessells & wooden bottoms which is much against them, that I think their voige s will be long.- I lately saw a Bill (but nothing further) drawn by Elizah Coffin on his owners for a small Sum which we intend to pay, it was dated at the Cape of Good Hope, I think in the 2nd mth, so I suppose he and Bartlett will go round the Cape. thy Bill for £ 50 in Morse acct, we have paid. thou'll continue supplies for his children if he desires it.- am glad you have at last got a Fed, Rep, I observe what thou says of the Friends from Ireland & Philada with I. Scott, I should be much pleas'd to see them but it is not probable that interview will take place this year.- I shall enquire respect Hemlock Barke, have heard nothing of its use here. blacke Oak barke has had a run in England, but I understandis rather getting out of repute; but whenever we have any vessells on hand they must generally bring staves, therof ore, wish thee to keep a large Stock at Bedford, both of the ltd. & Barrells, the consumption is so great here & the importation so small that some of the outfitters are much put to it to get their Ships out. I believe I have now unexpectedly run through thy letters & I believe answer'd though short to the severale particulars, shall now make a little addition in

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a few subjects.- as our Taught press Screw is in a doubtfull State by a Cracke, this, with a desire to have a press wholly our own determines us to have one from America as being much cheaper than from this quarter; Edson at Tittient Bridge or near it in the way to Boston from Bedford who is concerned in Iron Worke & has all the knowledge from Wilkinsons Successor that made our Screws, in that line of business told me he could make them on low terms, therefore, desire thou would get a Taught press compleat every way wood and iron, plates etc. made in America that nothing may be left for us to do but set it up here, the size to be the common sort now us'd, perhaps Wm may be suitable if not, he will know the necessary deviation, & send it here when an oppy in our own vessell, as we must have one, (vessell) to run between this and America so long as you are concern'd in the fishery to the present extent; this press we can set up in our own store to press head & foots for America or for any other use we may thinke proper & I think will answer a good purpose indeed if the Srews, male and female should come cheap two pair (with wood worke & other things for one only) would not be amiss, as a prevention for failing might not be amiss; it is an object certainly worth attending to, as sending the dry matter not to refind, would bear 72 Pe Ct, better than having it manufactured of American catching & bringg the Strained oil here under duty.-let it be done as soon as may be without faile. thy care respecting our situation & wishing us not to stay at risque in the present state of things is truly acceptable, & we shall attend to it, but I do not at present feele timorous; our situation truly is unpleasant in contemplating the State of the Kingdom, but as I wish not to flee but upon clear ground that it may be best; hope to be preserved in acting what shall be right. Lydia Gardner (now Pittman) is married out of Society, we have I believe fully discharged our duty towards her previous to that event according to our Discipline, & believe it will be safest for our Mercy to disown her, as her Certificate has not been read in this Country, but laid by until we shall be plac'd to some Meeting in England.-^r 16) the vessell I intend this by being detained has given me oppty to write Wm and I intended to have wrote thee more than I now find time will admit; we parted the day before yesterday with our D.R. Friends Christiana Hustler, Martha Routh & William Bleckley who spent about ten

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Days with us greatly to our Comfort: and this morning threee more on the same Religious mission have enterd our house, Edwd Hatton (son of Susa) Mary Dudley, sister to C. Stocks & Elizh Pimm, all valuable friends & my acquaintances, I desire to prize these favours, as such a stream of the Ministry I had little apprehension would be extended to us; but this year we have had a much greater share of such company than we should probably have had in our own land; having had company of 10 in the course of about 4 months, & some more looking towards us; I wish their labours may be effectuale in driving us home to the fountain of pure mercies, I wish I had time to enlarge on this subject; but the tide is near up & i must soon close.

the night of the 1st Int. will be a memourable period in this Nation; The violent patriotic party who now seem to have the rule in this nation, applied to the N. Assembly to have the King dethron'd or his Power suspended with ^{which} the Assembly did not comply; in consequence of this a mob about 100,000 surrounded the Palace in Thueries (the Gardners) an appendage to the Palace was planted with Cannon & the King Guards for the protection of the Sovereign & etc- they broke into the Thueries, were fir'd upon by the Guards, many killed, but they overpowered them (the Guards) & killed every man they could find, the King, Queen and family made their escape to the N. Assembly which is near the Thueries, and were taken under their protection that night, & the next day under the protection of the Volunteer Nationale Guards & conducted to a little place where they were safe the last acct; on his arrivale at the N. Assembly he requested his Sovereign powere to be suspended, wch they immediately complyd with this probably appeased the people they were tolerable quiet again; but deplorable indeed, is the State of this fine Kingdom; the combined forces are marching in great force against them, the event is only known to him who has the treasures & secrets of wisdom, & will do, & suffer to be done, as he pleases. I am affraid thou will hardly understand my scribble as I am driven now to a hasty conclusion, after saying the number killed in the late insurrection at Paris cannot be ascertained, the first acct was 8.000 . the present 12 to 1500.- the later is the most probable. I am with endeared love to thee

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dear Eliza the Children our relatives & friends in generale as though named in which our whole family united. Thy affectionate father,

William Rotch

I have been a little more particular in Wm letter of this insurrection than I have time here

My dear Son Thomas

Cap'n Cabb Gardner being detain'd by contrary winds gives me oppor't to send a few lines which I did not expect; whereby I may acknowledge the rect. of thine of the 4th mo, 19th, and 5 mo, 20th, -----The repeated accounts of my dear Sister regaining her health thus far, is truly comfortable and I hope will impress all our minds with a Gratefull sense of the Mercy & favour of the Great Preserver of Men, in granting a little longer, a life so dear to us all her near relatives; but our anxiety is not wholly remov'd, find'g by Sam'l's last letter she mended but slowly; yet hope our next will convey more favourable acct. I found thou has given due attention to the Canton Stern knee; we had a great additional Carpenters bill here, owing I apprehend to the difficulty of getting workmen with you, I am glad to find you have timber eno. for the Maria, as we always ought to keep a stock by us, though we shall not want it for her; we expect her here in a few days frm. North Shield where she has been repaired at very little more than she would have cost in America & I suppose the whole time of her absense will not be more than two months.

I observe what thou mentions respect'g thy money in Hombergs hands, & ^{as a} ~~the~~ thought of having goods ship'd out, but we have countermanded your orders ^{for} goods to Homberg & your money is lodg'd in T D & co hands; we intend to pursue & have a prospect of executing your plan if the vessells arrive; which are daily expected from Peru to put your property into head matter, we have the promise of the preference, & hope to get it at the same price we have purchas'd a parcels which we have mention'd long since to Wm & ~~would~~ have sent by the Ann if we dar'd; if we cannot get head we can then ship out your money in goods of such kind as will do best, your money now is in Sterling though at a great loss yet am glad it is done as the Exchange has since got to 42 ~~7~~ and rising I suppose yours was remitted at 40% which was my limits but as have no acct. frm. Homberg now if we purchas head here we shall redraw the money from Dickason & Co., but as I have wrote Wm. which I shall now explain least I did not express myself intelligibly; if you find head in America at a price you like, you may draw the whole money from Dickason, for if we should also purchase what we expect here & draw the money likewise from Dickason, yet we can replace it to them on the ~~first~~ first notice, and give you time to turn your effects into money to repay us, in London or America; therefore what I wish to be understood is that you may appropriate that money say L 1700----in any way you please without having any regard to our intention of making use of it in the purchase of the article here, now I hope I have fully explain'd our meaning, thou may also pursue exactly the same line of conduct with the L 500 stg. & ~~500~~ ^{int} draw on DeBaugue for it if thou can lay it out to advantage & at the same time we shall purchase head with it for thee ~~here~~ ^{here} if we can. The ~~made~~ thou propos'd of having the head ~~press~~ had not escap'd my thought before either o you mentiond it, but it cannot be done now as I wrote Wm. hope the addition of a ~~new~~ ^{new} which I have mention'd to Sam'l. will affect it; the oil expressed frm. the head that goes from here, you may send to this Port (being a free port) in some of the cask that now contains the head, (~~other~~ attend to this as they are branded) it may then be ship'd frm here to any part of the Kingdom duty free, it being actually oil caught by the French Fishery, but mind it must be the individual oils out of that head. I rec'd a letter frm. my dear Sister Rodman which was truly acceptable please when thou hast opp't convey our best love her & all the dear family, I intend writing her when I have time, and my communication stock which is very small, will admit, we have just parted with three of our valuable frds. in the Ministry. Benj. is gone with them ~~we~~ ^{we} expect him back today, yesterday morning we had three other enter our house frm. ~~and~~ Ireland, Edw'd Hatton,

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Mary Dudley & Eliz'h Pimm, my acquaintance & near friends. Thus we are
eminently favour'd with line upon line, and I hope to some good effect, their
mission has not been to bear the Rod, but rather an encouragement to bear the
trials that may attend and endeavour to hold up as a Standard of ^{sure} ~~your~~ Right-
eousness in all our conduct to this Nation which is rapidly emerging from
that state of darkness & Superstition, in which they have been so long held;
though this desirable state will not probably be effected with great suffering.
I have not time to add the vessell being on the point of sailing but Our united
love to thee dear Charity & all our relatives & friends in your quarter, in
which I am thy affectionate

Wm. Rotch

Dunkirk 9th mo 10th 1792

William Rotch & Sons

Nantucket

To the care of

William Rotch, Jr.,

New Bedford.

Dunkirk 9th Mo., 10th, 1792

Dear Son Samuele Rodman,

I recd thy acceptable letter of the 7 mo., 24 ult., concluded by Brother Brown, 8th mh, 3d, with one frm dear Eliza & many frm her & others to the family by Trism. Gardner who arrivd here yesterday towards evening all well; I shall be able to make but short reply as I have much writting on hand & the Post goes out tomorrow mornng. I am pleasd to hear of the safe arrivale of the Ann with so good a passage as 39 days, and that she got to sea so early as the second (2nd) of last month well man'd, I hope thou got plenty of Potatoes or she had better laid longer.- I did not expect Manter would ~~have~~ called for money as he recd the ballance of his first voige say 1309 " " thou must now Note that his whole first voige was paid him here, so that my Note for 70 £ odd & all his Nantucket acct remains to come out of the last voige which is but a small portion sold as yet; but I like thy furnishing him with the 40 £ - if thou had it to Spare as it must, with my note run on Interest; It was and still is our intent to realize his money in London as soon as the voige is sold. I am very glad to hear that Brocke has so well recoverd, if we were sure he would hold well, I should much regret his not being in one of our vessells, as he is really a good man for the business. I observe thou mentions the difficulties attending collecting the Materials for the New vessell, & the price of 17 dolls pr Tun; my last to thee was to push her forward if she could be done to advantage in 20 months or thereabouts, but on considering it, I was sorry for what I had mentioned, knowing everything could not be well season'd; and now at the high price of 17 dolls I had much rather lay the Materials intirely by, let them remain in docke one or two years before she is begun, if thou has not engag'd with Claghorn or if thou has, & he can employ himself otherwise to his satisfaction so as to be willing to relinquish this vessell for the present, I would advise thee to lay her by for some time, even if the Keele & etc. is up it may^{be}/pay'd over & kept from harm, but in that case provide all the lumber and dont let a stick of it be used on any pretence. I am sorry we ever proposed building her in America as we can under the present state of the

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paper medium, get one built in this country much cheaper & abundant & more lasting, except the live Oak & Cedar. I have heretofore wrote thee the Bill remitted by Anthonys was punctually paid & a fine Spec. it was, at the time the livers were due the Exchange was 45 " so that in reality we gained £ 900 Stg. or more.- Reuben Garners debt on our Nantucket Booke, & his Greenland voige with all other transactions were settle here, that thou may ballance them by Cash in the Settlement of his voiges in Dunkirke or let it stand untill we can send thee his whole acct to be put on our Nantucket Booke. Shall looke at & arrange Coffin Whippey's acct as soon as we can, I wish he had furnished his wife, himself so as not to have her call on thee, we owe him nothing but thou must supply her & charge Interest, when Eben Clarke returns if I live & thinke of it I shall endeavor to get something of him for his father, he like all the rest take up freely here, I wish we could prevent it, & he made a good voige with David Folger & is now gone, his Mate is a likely man for the business.- I have heretofore wrote thee that E. Glover forbids any futher supplies to his mother & family therefore pray send me the acct down to the time thou receives the intelligence of his orders; thou must also settle Cryspus Gardner's note to Lawrence for £ 30 - as we shall have plenty when the Penelope's oil is sold & the Edwards where Calvin was last, I am glad thou hast been able to furnish Thos. with £ 500 Lmd I wrote him to draw on DeBauque for a Thousand, which may now be reduc'd to Six hundred, pray mention it to him, as I shall not have time to write him. The Bill on Dickason was paid long since. I note T. F.'s letter to thee & also his observations on R. B.'s part of the Farm is just; if a joint Tenancy, he must deliver his part to Hussey that will consequently clear him of whatever part R. Bs was of the whole Sum recovered of Hussey, whether Tupper will do any thing or not, it matters nothing to me or Folger, as the whole of that part or near the whole was unpaid; after that the remainder lays with Folger whether £ 12 or £ 100.- if no joint tenancy Barker's heirs & Hussey's must settle it as they can, the remainder as before belongs to Folger. I wish justice to be amply done.- The Mortgag'd Estate at Nantucket is rescued out of the Lion's paw - but this for myself, thou will probably hear more of it from anotherQuarter. I am glad thou and Eliza do not

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make a confident of --- your caution is necessary. The potts to fulfill my former order, by the negligence of Birkbeck & Ball were not ship'd until by the Ruby in the 7th mo. & then they sent many more 60's than I ordered, which I told them we would not take to ourselves unless we could sell them, I now wish there was more 80's as these last are Cast in Moulds, & lighter as well as 2 pr cheaper than those in Loam, they sell in time & and the price thou mentions is enh for them, I expect the Sale is near over but we may keep them as they will not soon perish. - now as to a vessell to bring staves etc. the price thou quotes is much too high, I thought a carrying vessell of 160 Tuns might be got for £ 600 Lmt - but if they remain so high, I wish thee not to purchase one, as we can catch an oppy here and do it much cheaper, but we must have some Staves, Lld. & barrels for the next outfit, & thou must not faile having a quantity procured next winter up the W. River at Hudson or elsewhere, where Elihue Bunker as I wrote thee before mighte buy them for Cash in winter much cheaper than in the Spring, we must have a vessell for this purpose if we, or rather you carry on the fishery, as we cannot depend on the quantity commonly brot to market to supply half the fishery, there are now 36 saile mostly large out of this place, & amny often detained very long for casks, which has not been our case, but for no other reason than the whole of the Maria & Eliza, & Canton's Cargoesbeing put into our Coopers hands for our own vessells; otherwise, we could not have got the vessell to sea. The voiges they are now gone untill a supply from somewhere; Altho the Osprey was too small yet if we had been appriz'd of the high price of vessells in America, she would have done ve y well untill a better had presented. The codfishpr Gardner is very acceptable, pray send us some whenever appty presents; the blue paper is in good time send more when thou can; the Cedar boards are in good time & easy terms, Whenever oppty presents don't miss them; it is astonishing the number of boats that are call'd for, new Adventurers in the fishery encrease the demand; I have many times wishd Ebriah Macy could have had this branch, but it is now too late, we want Logs for boat timber & other parts when oppty, 1000 ft 2 inch planke & some longer 21 feet for keels & gunwales, clear & good, but don't expect any conveyance for sometime.- I am glad thou art making provission for Beef. this article we must have from

America(whether Pork also, I am undetermined) Norwich used to be the best place for Pork. - Broad kind is cheap here 200 bls. Beef will not be too much, indeed another outfit for 8 vessells will require 300 Bbls.- but 80 bs. this fall will do, the rest ought to be purchased in the best season.- as to Head Matter, the price it is at (say the ["]last 3-10) will do very well to manufacture here on acct of the returng oile sold on the Spot; we have purchased some at that for Wm. but at the present exchange say 38,- it will come up pretty high. 420 Stoops, (the tun) at 3-16 -- 1470# at 38 --

-----Stg. 38-13-8

American duty 72 pr Lb 2-19-6 Shipg.

Charge & Stg. perhaps 5 ----- 3-4- 6

Frt----- 2- -

L 43-18-2 when Exchange was 42 it would do much better. I suppose we have about 60 Tuns in our Manufactory for the winter Stocke which is as much as we can well worke.-pray attend to my request of getting a Taut pt press of the common size furnished compleat, wood and Iron in every part, & ready to send when a good oppty, the bar thou need not get, but the plates thou may.

5th sh

The Falkland is upon Sale, but not Sold, I expect she will sell here better than in America, as seve ale persons are enquiring after her, if she does not sell this winter coming, it is probable we may send her to thee in the Spring, but is too late now. I must deplore the situation of this fine Kingdom it is dreadfull in the present moment, torents of blood are poured out; the Duke of Brunswick marching a large Army, severale places taken by him, but I much doubt his ever getting to Paris, as such a multitude of people are armed against him, though undiciplind may stop his progress, especially as they are fighting for liberty & not for conquest, we have no thought of leaving this place at present as there is no appearance of its being beseig'g yet, if at all, much will depend on the Foreign Armies success, I hoped their constitution would have been preserved without more bloodshed than what was early done, & that the Nation might have regained tranquility and while at peace deliberately mended the Constitution where it was defective, but all the prospect was vanished, the longest Sword is now to determine it; a Nationale convention is called, the Members are now choosing, they are

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to meet I believe the 20th of this mh.- I wish thou would inform Wm as I have not to write him that we are getting the Mary ready as fast as possible for Bedford, Frans Bunker goes out Mr & will take the ld we have bot for him shall put in some Coale, I hope the frt will pay the Expencee L. Coffin, whose head mr we expected to purchase for him, I find is in Beford, pe haps he may pay it there, G. Gibbs, I suppose will act for Haydon.- The Maria arrived three days ago from N. Sheilds, she is finely repaired, much more done than was at first expected near L 500 - she is now well worth L 1000 or L 1200 Stg.- If we had broke her up I do not think she would have come to L 200- her hull I ^{6 sh} believe to be quite as good as when new & will, I apprehend last longer than she has already lasted, she is really fine vessell, her upper decke is raisd to the heighth of Quarter deck, she is now flush & gives better heighth between decks which she much wanted. hope she will be ready for Sea in 10 days - Owen Hillman is Master, we want boat Stearers for her, indeed mates, 2nd mate, & Boat Stearers are much wanted at presente the war will not probably offsett the Fishery, except a Sea War take place . I wrote thee Russia had declard war against France, but I do not hear it confirm'd . please tell Thads Swain I received his letter and will do the best I can for him as to his acct with DeBauque, but have not yet seen them. I exceedingly desire to hear that some favourable negotiations are going forward with the Indians in America. Our valued Hibernian and Philada friends are safely arriv'd in Liverpoole, I did not hear S. Borden was on his way to London, but nothing further . I know thy dear Eliza will not charge me with want of affection in not writing her for so longe space of time, it is very repugnent to my feelings but the multitude of engagements, though not direct in our business, has hitherto prevented, but I hope to do it soon. Benjn went with the last friend that visited us to Dover intendg no further when he went from home, but the knew no how to part with each other, & he went to Guernsey with them they had a dangerous passage & he much exposed but got safe, Have heard nothing of them since their arrivale there, but we daily looke for his return; I was glad he went with them as he really needed some relaxation. I believe I have now run through thy letter and do not recollect anything further to remarke at present. I

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Have heretofore mentiond the Dianna had 700 Barls when Frans Bunker left her, who lost his vessell the Cato in coming into harbour, but a saving to the Owner as she was insured in London. Cargo saved 680 bls. whale oile- a dreadfull massacre tooke place in Paris on the 2nd inst, the populace on those confind in the severale prisons, ~~for~~ Crimes against the State, or being mimicale to the Constitution; they appointed twelve persons to try them, those for Debt or small crimes were releas'd but under the dreadfull triale, it is said several thousands fell victims to popularrage, among which were a great number of the Clergy, I omit say more on the Subject, the thought is enoh almost to chill our veins; I sincerely wish nothing of the kind may again happen, but the terrible threatening manifested of the Duke of Cromwall greatly irritated the people, indeed it is a strange composition and I apprehend must have a direct tendency to frustrate his own intention therein, where innocent persons are equally liable to suffer by his threatend punis hment & devastation. the combination of the Powers of Europe against France is in my opinion a horid plan & i hope they will be frustrated; yet not by the shocking means that I have mentioned above, for such conduct must add many Enemies to the Nation; but I desire to close the Scene as a well wisher to peace and good Government, the Civile and Religious Liberty of the subject under whatever form it may be administered. I wish thee to communicate my love particularly to my aged uncle, F. M. & Aunt, Aunt Deborah & her husband, D. Green Cousins Jonn. & Louis with all my near relatives & such friends as thou thinke will accept it B. Worth & Tillet & Phbe & Elly- with an almost unbounded portion to self & Eliza with the Children in which our whole family present unite. Benj. not yet returned from Guernsey.

Thy affe father

W Rotch

Dunkirk 9th mo 30th 1792

William Rotch & Sons

Nantucket

9th page starts 10th mo. 2nd 1792

Dunkirk 9th mo 30th 1792

My dear son Samuel: Rodman,

I wrote thee the 10th Inst via London to the care of T. D. & Co, to forward pr first oppy for Boston or New Yorke , in answer to thine of the 7th mh 24th concluded by Brother Brown 8th mh. 3 pr the America S Gardner who arrivd safe the 9th after a passage of 32 days; and as my letter may miscarry or this reach thee at an earlier period, I shall make a repetition of what I then wrote as to business, according to my minutes, as i keep no copies of letters to thee in the generale----- as to the New Ship, I have wrote forward and backward, about putting her forward & keeping her backe as circumstances might take place; but now I believe I am fully fixed; if thou has not agreed with Claghorn, or if thou hast; and he can find sufficient employ to his satisfaction, I wish thee to lay her intirely by for the present, collect all the Timber of every kind, keep it all in dock that is necessary (the Cedar I suppose is not necessary to put in water but that thou can find) and not let a sticke be used on any pretense whatever untill we see a more favorable time for building - for altho 17 ds. may be as low as Claghorn can build, yet it is too much for us to give, if he has begun her, got her keele & etc laid & some of the timber on, it may stand, & be paid over after season'd, this will be my full determination if thou can settle the matter with Claghorn to his satisfaction; as I find it will be impossible to get her well seasoned and built to take us out to America at the time we hope to be ready if life & health is continued, therefore shall something further of a vessell before I close. I am glad thou proposes to engage 200 Bars of Beef at Norwich wch was the best place before the war, & probably may be now, we shall want, in the whole, for another outfit 300 Barls as this article must come from America so long as we pursue the fishery from here, it now costs about 6% real Stg put up here; 30 barls will answer for the present year, as we shall expect only the Dianna & Lydia by next winter or perhaps the Canton may be added in the Spring, but the whole would be purchased at the best season the present year or the next Spring; Porke I cannot yet determine whether it must come from America or not, It is the same price of Beef here, but as the war has greatly

encreased the price of both I suppose we must have porke also from America. the c
 cedar boards pr Garner are in good time & goodterms; whenever such oppty occurs
 dont miss them; some goodLogs for Boat timber we also want much, one third of common
 logs cut for fire wood that would split well would do, & come cheaper, some stems
 & knees, but the knees must be such as are got for under knees as among these will be
 found enh for upper knees- 1000 feet of good 2 Inch planke for keele & gunwales also
 is wanted fm 21 & more feet long but above all thou must be attentive to Staves, both
 lld & Barrele as this market is not one-half supplied for the fishery, many are oblig-
 ed to wait long for Casks , & send abroad for them; this would have been our case if
 we had not have had the whole of the Maria & Eliza's & Cantons cargoes reserv'd for
 our own use; we must have a vessell constantly employ'd between this & America so long
 as you continue the fishery here, altho the vessell cannot gain much , yet I expect 3rd
 she may keep herself in repair & pay Int of money & Insure, indeed if that cannot be sht.
 done the fishery cannot be pursued without it, unless by greater disadvantage arise
 otherways; 1200 Tuns of Casks if the vessells are successful will not more than furn-
 ish our 8 vessells; which is $\frac{3}{4}$ more than we can depend on for Staves by common import-
 ation, & the fishery by new adventures greatly encreasing, there being now out & fitt-
 ing 36 Saile from this place, almost all large Ships fm 200 to 400 Tuns Carpenter's
 measurement, but I had no Idea that vessells had risen to the price thou mentioned for
 I Codmans Brig wch is much too high, Hope thou'll not give more than £ 900 Stg for her;
 if we had suspected that vessells would have been so high in America we should as thou
 mention, have kept the Osprey for the purpose untill a better had presented, but having
 as much Navigation in the fishery as wethot prudent were glad to sell her to cousin
 I. S. $\frac{3}{4}$ & W. Morse $\frac{1}{4}$ & Benj. being so over pressed with business at that time, hav-
 ing 5 on hand; we could not think of ading her to the burthen. the fish & paper are
 very acceptable, please send more when opptn & the price of the paper that we may see
 whether it is better to get it made to patern in this country or have it from America.--

As I mentiond by severale conveyances, that the Bill from Anthony was punctual-
 ly paid, & that thy Bill on Dickason & Co is also discharged, and also that thou might
 pay G. Lawrence Crispus's order for £ 30 Lmd there will with his former bale be consid-

erable money in our hands when Calven & Franklins last voiges are settled, though they spent more than I wishd. indeed, it is great mortification to us to have Minors to deal with here when we know the power of their voiges is in their own hands, not that many take that advantage, yet we cannot do as we would if the Laws were different. When Eben Clarke returns, I wshall try to get something for his father, he made a good voige with David Folger since he went in the Hope & is now gone Folgers Mate, is a likely young man for business. I have also severale times mentioned the Ezehe Glover forbids any further supplies to his mother or family, therefore, please to send the Acct to the time thou receives that intlligence & the supplies ceases. Reun Gardner Nantucket acct & Greenland voige are both settled in his acct here. I shalll when time looke into Coffin Whippey's Acct & endeavor to get it right; I was in hopes he would have supplied his wife himself as we owe him nothing, but thou may furnish her & when a sum worth drawing for, draw a Sterling bill on Debauques for him to be placd to our Acct - charge interest.

I did not expect B. Manter would have call'd on thee for money, as we paid him 1300 Livers ballance of his first voige; when his present voige is sold which is going of but slowly, we were (by our own advice to him) as he said, to place the money in London; but we don't matter the advances as they must be on interest, unless destruction should attend his voige which we hope not; thou must observe the whole of his first voige has been pd him here, so that all his Nantucket advances with my, or the Comp's note of 70 odd pounds on Interest is to come out of his last voige but supply his family as they waht. I am glad thou hast been able to furnish Thos. with £ 500 Lmd, before I recd this information I had written him to draw £ 1000 Stg on D. B's - which may now be reduced to £ 600. - I observe _____ is not your visitor, not having thine nor E3s confidence, I am you are cautious in that respect, believe, a confident ought to be more than I could do, or you ought to do on that person. The Falkland is on sale but not sold, severale are enquiring for her & I hope we shall dispose of her, if not shall be glad to send her to thee when oppy offers but too late

this year. I duly observe what thou mention respectg T Folgers affair with O H--
 & also what he himself says on the subject; as soon as thou has ascertaind the state
 of the Law respectg Joint tenancy, the matter will be plain and conclusive, relative
 to that pt wch R Barker own'd, I do not expect the late law will operate anytime be-
 yond its promulgation, tho in this case could wish it had done, so as to have destroy-
 ed it, which would have brought this estate within the compass of Husseys & Barkers
 heirs, when neither Folger nor Tupper would have had anything to do with it; but I
 expect it will be found otherwise; if so Folger as he seems ready to do must give
 Husseys heirs a quit claim; which must be accompanied with a discharge from Huss ey,
 to Folger of a Sum, the due proportion of his part of that Estate, which I fear/shall
 not be able to convey my meaning for want of knowing the sum the whole Estate first
 cost(of which I suppose Barker was a $\frac{1}{4}$) & the sum recovered of Hussey- but I will
 suppose the whole Estate £ 800 ----(200lb $\frac{1}{4}$) and that by compound interest & law charges
 £ 600- was recovered of Hussey, now Hussey & Tupper had dischargd their say 400- &
 Folger a part of his we will say ----- 150
 so that there was due only 250- of this 200 frm Barker & 50 frm Folger, but £ 600
 was received of Hussey- of which $\frac{4}{5}$ say £ 480 would be due frm Barker & $\frac{1}{5}$ say
 £ 120-from Folger- now if the joint Tenancy is good; if $\frac{1}{2}$ Barker now fall to Folger
 his giving a quit claim to Hussey must discharge him frm all his part of Barkers
 deficiency; and paying his own deficiency say £ 120-- must discharge him I thinke
 inequity in every respect, but whether I am right or not in my congecture I cannot tell;
 but see nothing amiss at present upon the above plan of calculation, only the sums a re
 proposed, instead of the reale Sum--- as Folger proposes Geo. Ramsdle to have power
 to make the division between him & Tupper, I wish it may be done, if I have not left
 power with thee in this particular(wch I do not remember) Wm has my power for convey-
 ing Reale Estate, pray have it done as soon as may be , desire G. R. to employ some
 honest understanding men to make the Division that I T may get no advantage if an
 athorny is necessary, Generale Wm Lithgow was employ'd by me in recoverg the Estate
 frm I T. when he had got possession of it. I do not see in the foregoing case that

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anything need be said by thee to Dr Tupper, let him do as he will; if any part belongs to Folger, he can convey that part, or rather give a quit claim (which I should prefer) & if none belongs to him, he has nothing to do but to settle his own private part according to equity.--- our last pots went by the Ruby but I find I order'd too many 60's & B & B ship'd more of that kind than I orderd; I told them we would not take them unless we could use them; which they agreed to, notwithstanding they are now imported by others, I intend orderg some more 80's- as they are now cast in mould, (our exclusive right having had the mould made at our expense), they are lighter than those in Loam & 2 pr Llb cheaper, that the price thou quotes will do very well for them; and if they lay on hand a while they'll not perish. --- I am very glad the Ann Arriv'd safe with so good a passage, and that the Mr long enh ashore to prepare him for another long voige, she will be in good time for all the Season on the Brazile Coast, I hope she had 2 large Spare pots-- I deplore the state of our Country being engaged in an Indian war, which doubtless is unjust, & I suppose its by encraachment, am sorry there should appear any necessity for sadling commerce with additionale burthens, for as thou observes ^{7th sh,} it seems to be the disposition of all nations rather to increase oppressions than lighten it; indeed it is really aggravating to see how the labour of the poor is lavish'd almost unboundedly on the dissipated rich, as it is in England, in passing through that Country many Objects of this kind present to view; too much to reconcile, or even to bear if there was any remidy; but there seems none at present without great confussion & bloodshed; which I desire may never take place. I wish thee to keep me advised of the State of our funds, if they seem permanent & the people satisfied, I should like to have something plac'd there if it will bring 5 to 6 pr Cr. what little we have an Engd is not on Int. nor can I tell where to place it with any safety, the Funds I do not like, & good private hands cannot be founf, we have once narrowly escaped in the latter.

In my writing thee will observe I have no method altho I ought to have, but mix business with other matters just as it comes into my mind, but I have not time to attend to regularity in this respect, therefore thou must take it as it comes. -
I have severale times wrote thee for a Taught press of the common size to be compleat in every respect finish'd wood & Iron, except the bar, which pray attend to, indeed if

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we had two it would not be amiss but one first and as soon as maybe----- if I should omit writing to Thad. Swain, pray tell him I applied to DeBauque on business who inform me they will settle it to his satisfaction, I desired them to remit his money to Harrison Ansley & Co which they will do & I imagine he will be chargd but 32 " per 2 % Stg by their saying they should do it to his satisfaction it is now 38 ". Our valued Hibernian & Phatad frd arriv'd safe at Liverpoole & I Emlin gone to Ireland (suppose with the women) to attend to the funerale of our much valued friend, and one of my particular acquaintance, Richd Shackelton, whose removal will be much missed by Society he was not in the Ministry but a valuable Elder much concern'd in promoting the great Cause & well adapted to the various services of the Church, he has left a valuable widdow & Childn all bending the right way, one or two in the Ministry. ----- as to the head mr. it will do very well here on acct of the value of oile extracted, but at 3.10 - wch is the price we gave for what we have purchased for Wm at the present exch. 38" it will come up to the near price given in America.----- please to keep intire all the timber that was prepar'd for the Maria, as we shall probably want it to repair one of our vessells on the return from the present voige-- I intended sayg something more about another vessell as I hinted in the first part of this letter, but shall lay all thoughts of it by for the present; only for thee still to get a cheap carrying vessell when thou can & send a ton of staves . 10th mth 2nd I recd last eveng a letter frm Brother Starbucke they arrived safe at Milford the 23 rd inst a passage of 24 days all well except the women being much fatigued with the voige expect they will soon recover ; frm the present situation of public affairs I have advised Sammy not to bring his family this year. I expect thou had the account of the Diannas being full at Walwick Bay by Capn Blacke of Providence who was also full, before they reach'd us, they were to leave the Bay the 20th of 7 mh we shall looke for her in 10 days, our young Capn has doubtless stop'd the snears of some . this acct was dated 7mth 15th another of the 28th- gives us a pleasing acct of the Canton having got into the Bay & got 200 Bs. & a whale alongside, great success if she obtained it all there, as she could not have been in the Bay more than 13 days, & perhaps not so many, that we have some hope

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she will fill there if the whales continue the usual time; the Dianna cannot save the return of premium as 12 months will be out tomorrow, which I thinke was the time limitted, the Canton has a good prospect for it, Thad Coffin & David Swain were also full -- I understand you have a Post office erected at Nantucket, but/9th sh considering whose directione it must be under, I hope our letters from here find their way without passing through that Channele; though I write nothing that I am affraid or asham'd of, yet we dont wish our family concerns should be exposed--

10th mh 2d ----- I shall say very little on public matters as somethings are too horrible to relate, the dreadfull Massacre in the Capitole & its invirons, with some other places is too much for a feeling heart to relate; Jnth Marcelliae (who with his wife is now with us in their way to England) being then in Paris, told me he counted 173 dead bodies in the Streets as he passed in the course of about three Quarters of an hour; which was but a small proportion to what might have been seen in other parts, the Murderd in the Prisons & elsewhere were supposed to be severale thousand; the abominable Interment that set this on foot, is now one of the Nationale Convention, and I am glad to find that almost the whole assembly are disgusted with his being of their Body & great severity has been poured out upon him there calle for a decree of accusation against him, but others I suppose fearing it will make too great a Stir have put it by for the present; but I send thee & Wm the Papers French & Englishe, the latter has exagerated, perhaps as much as the other has suppressed. the War approaches us, Lille is beseiged, its a very strong Town about 48 miles from us, the Cannon are heard here in a still night, about 20,000 Austrians are before it, but if no treachery, is supos'd to be able to sustain a seige of severale months against an army of 60,000, they throw in Barreles & Red hot shot by which a Church(so called) & about 25 houses have been burnt-to yesterday --about 6000 women & children were sent out of the Town yesterday, some of whom have reachd this Town & others elsewhere, this I intend by the Mary for Bedford, onboard of this vessell is a quanty. of Grindstones I believe near 300-- by taking the whole we got them at

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at little more than the prime cost in the North where they were made we have proposed their being divided between us & Wm but you may regulate it otherwise if you thinke proper----- I have been very desirous to get Eight or Ten Thousand pounds Stg in England thence to America, but we have had so many calls, that what we had there I believe is now reduc'd to about 3300 L----- but if no destruction takes place of our property here, I expect we shall be able to add out of the Penelope & Hope voiges about L 3700 --- more clear of what we shall want when the Maria gets to sea which we expect will be in three days, when all our vessells will be out, & if they return successfull will I hope as to me wind up very well, I say to me because as I wrote thee I wish at that period to quit business; but great changes may take place before that period, we have no war by sea yet, which I wish may continue; it is daily expected that Spain & all Germany will declare war against France, the Diel of Ratisbon is supposed have concluded on this measure; Russia is marching its forces, from Poland, Switzerland I fear will be added to the number on acct of the late Massacre of many of their officers; & France have declar'd against the King of Sardinia, have marched an Army into his Dominion, his Army has fled before them & many of the Town have open'd their gates & desire to be under the French Government, but as they have declared against War for conquest, they propose only setting the people free from their King & for themselves to form a Republic or any other Government except a Monarchy they may choose. DuBarques have sold some of the Hopes oile but cannot say how much perhaps @ $\frac{1}{4}$ 36, and all the Bone at $\frac{1}{4}$ 32 I wish it had all been run off before the danger that seems approaching but we must now wait the events .-----

& 10 or 12 doz of his lances pray send us no more of another sort of harpoons, it will be necessary to procure some more of Sweet's harpoons, like some that came in the Osprey, they may be good but they looke bad, we have parted with the most of them, n not caring to put them into our own vessells, we may also want 2000 feet of good Oars none less than 16 feet and to 172 to 18- & Stearg Oars 21 to 21 %. -- a few harpoons poles to be provided when easy to be done & good-- perhaps 300---- the repairs of the Maria come to much more than we expected, she was found very rotten on full examination

9/

I thinke I wrote thee after I saw her at Shields that we thought she would not exceed L 300 Stg but we find it more than double that sum, but not having collected all the expence cannot ascertain it at present, our consolation is she is exceedg well done & will probably last ten years with very little repairs, & now ready for a voige in good season except one month too late.-- I do not recollect anything more to mention ^p respectg our common business - its probable when B C- returns he will re new his demand, & let him have his right, there is the 600 & odd livers pd him by DeBarque & charg'd us is now taken frm our acct & placed to his, & perhaps some other matters, that may be right, but the Charge of 700 & odd I thinke thou has his Bill & rect.-- as to the Oile & wine I suppose they are made up acct to cheat us out of something, but where ever there is any shaddow for a just demand, leave it men with him, I hate the, Law, but if nothing else will do for him, we are ~~an~~ on the defensive. I hope thou tooke care to pay Sullivan the last half which he was to have when the former matter was ended, I suppose thou knew the Sum; thou never mentioned to me how that villanous matter of B. Barnard & Warders terminated, as the securities arose to their full value there needed no loss unless villany tooke the seat of Justice-- Benjn & Eliza proposes setting off for England the latter end of this weeke on a visit, which we are glad to encourage; I believe I mentioned in my letter to Eliza the dangerous passage he had with the last friends that visited us in going ~~from~~ Engd to Germany, they went in a storm which increas'd so much that for a time they saw no prospect of surving it, but Providentially landed safe.-----

I can say no more at present but that I am as at all times thy affectionate father

Wm Rotch

P.S. I did not mention that the first acct of the New Convention after being organized was to abolish Monarchy, & Declare this Country to be a Republic, they are now about forming a new Constitution, which if they return their Liberty will probably center in the American form of Government. -----

please to deliver unkle Frank Macy 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ Barls flour from his Son Frank, no acct to be made of it, as it for so much supplied one of our vessells by one of his at Sea

[30 Sept 1792]

Dunkirke 10th mo 2nd 1792

#4 p10

12th sheet of orig. letter cont.

10/

4th-- the force before Lile^{is} greater than we imagine there is 31,000 men, they have thrown into Lile 500,000 pounds wth of Iron have 9 batters erected of 6 Guns each 15 to 33 ball-- Lile has sent them in return 57,000 cannon Balls they have 130 men killed, I am anxious for that place as much depends on the event of this seige repecting our Tranquility it is reinforced by 6000 men, but I fear for it --- 100 houses burnt in Lile up to the last acct.

Thomas Retch, New Bedford

The Mary
and Bunker.

Dunkirk 9th mo, 30th, 1792

#5 p1

My dear Son Thomas

My last to thee was the 18th ult. ^{care of} Caleb Gardner via Newbury Port, in which if I remember right I directed thee to draw on DeBaques for One Thousand pounds Sterg. when thou could apply it to advantage, & the exchange was favourable, since which I find by Samuel he had pd. thee or provided L 500 or thereabouts; therefore I now wish thee to reduce thy draft to Six Hundred altho the L 500 is not thy share of profit, yet is more that thy proportion of what remains unappropriated; the remaining proffits being added to the Stock, thou will have thy portion of this appropriation in the advantage that may arise, the L 600 stg. being on acct. of the Stocks I proposed furnishing thee with. Wm. has advis'd me of the manner you have divided the money paid by Fleming, which it quite agreeable to me. I believe I mentio'd to thee that I had desir'd Homberg not to ship Wm & thee the Goods you order'd on acct. of the money you had in their hands, having a prospect then of investing the whole into head matter, expecting the preference of Coffin (who we find arriv'd at Bedford & perhaps it may faill into yr. hands there) and another of W. Heyland ships which has not yet arriv'd, waiting for these vessells we have kept the Mary, untill now---you will have by her a Small Stock wch. if she arrives safe hope with what you may purchase in America may ~~perish~~ furnish you a tolerable quant' the rem'r of your money, which was in Hombergs hands I have long since inform'd Wm. was lodg'd in Dickason & Co. hands in London for your appropriation. I can give thee nothing pleasing in our present situation, except being favour'd with health, which is truly one of the choicest Blessings of this life for its continuation I desire ever to be impressed with thankfulness; as to the present state of this fine Country, I must refer thee to the public papers, French & English, for the accounts, though doubly imperfect, for the Stream of Blood that lately has been open'd; dreadfull indse'd in the Extremes; as the National convention meets about this time, I wish they may strike out some mode to restore the Nation from its present agitated State, and that cool deliberation may take place to produce tranquility; its not improbable but a new constitution may be form'd on the American plan; the Confederacy against France of almost all the Powers of Europe is very Strong, a powerfull Army is now in the Kingdom, but I think ~~this~~ the Duke of Brunswick will not easily reach Paris, unless the present jealousy and divisions continue; in this case no human calculation can be made even with much probability-----I know our near relatives & friends will be under great concern for us, but I wish them not to afflict themselves, its true our lot is uncertain, but shall endeavour to conduct with as much prudence as shall be afforded, we are at present quiet here, and have no reason to expect this place will be besieg'd, unless the City of Lile (about 48 miles from here) which is very strong, should be attack'd & taken. It is not yet invaded, though there are apprehensions for its safety; if that should be subdued, its not improbable but we may have a visit, if it should be the case its likely we may remove, but we are unwilling to flee without real danger appears, at present I believe our family our favour'd with a degree of calmness, that I hope will not desert us; trials of a severe kind we have had and I still expect will be our portion; may we be favour'd to lay up something in Store against the storm that may assail, that we may hope for some shelter under that munition of Rocks against which the shafts of the wicked shall not prevail. In the midst of all the commotions, and disagreeable of prospects, we have the consolation to find we are not forgotten, by Him who is waiting to be Gracious to the workmanship of his hands, in concerning his dignified Servants to come and see how we fare, who have not been wanting in counsel, in admonition, in warning, & in encouragement, the stream of their Ministry has mostly ~~run~~ in the last channels, many times to our great consolation and confirmation that we are not so much out of as I believe many of our friends (if they may justly stand under that

230 Sept 1792]

#5 p2

appellation) in America or rather in our native Island may apprehend; this alone has contributed much to render our separation less disagreeable; indeed had their communications been of a contrary nature, our long separation from you I believe would have been by this day almost intolerable but from many circumstances, is made more easy than I could have expected, and sometimes a little hope is rais'd that we may be permitted to meet you again in our own land, but as this is hid in the secrets of best wisdom, I am not anxious to know what is wisely plac'd beyond the limits of finite Beings; if we should be favoured to see you again I believe it will not be at the period I proposed when we left America, as I see if our vessels return well I cannot compleat that much desir'd part of my business, to entirely quit the concern myself timely to get out in the best season next year, and I am very unwilling to leave any thing unadjusted, that may hang upon my mind, and thereby render it less capable if the necessary attention to things of much greater importance; as business has long since been a burthen to me, I am very desirous of extricating myself ~~from~~ wholly from it, that whether my stay here may be longer or shorter, or whether I should be favour'd to reach America I may be preserv'd in that allotment, whatever it may be, design'd by the Great Master, whether to suffer or reign that all may tend to his glory. -----10th mo, 2'd---Life has been besieged several days by about 20,000 Austrians, but it is expected it can sustain a seige of a much greater number for Six months; we are within hearing of the Cannon in a still night which was the case last night which was the case last evening.

I rec'd a letter last evening from Brother Starbuck they arrived safe at Milford Haven the 20th In's. all well except the fatigue of the passage(24 days only) to the women, which had not recover'd.

I have not time to enlarge but am with endeared love to thee thy dear Charity, Tomy & Nancy *gno.* & Patience with our other relations, thy affectionate father

Wm. Rotch

P.S. Please forward inclosed to thy dear Mother . The Dianna is full & daily expect'd, the Canton had 250 W'whale,

#6 p1
Dunkirk, 10th mo. 1, 1792

My Dear Daughter,

I have for some time committed a kind of unavoidable violence upon my inclination, in suffering such an interval to pass between my communications to thee; my last being in the 12th mo. by G. Swain; but I know thy disposition will not admit thy attributing it to any diminution of Paternal regard, which renders it unnecessary to detail the various intervening causes that have contributed to this long silence; as there is an intercourse in the Spiritual family beyond the power of human eloquence; like deep calling unto deep; which neither sea nor land, time nor space can deprive us of. I hope we are at times in some measure sharers therein.

Thy late severe illness filled our minds with unutterable anxiety, and for thy restoration thus far, may we unitedly acknowledge with thankfulness to the Author of all blessings, that His mercy is still extended to us. I wish it may be an incitement to us all to be diligent in making our calling and election sure. I am sensible from the repeated accounts you have and will have of the situation of this Kingdom, that your apprehensions for our safety will product much inquietude, but dont be disturbed; though dreadful, indeed, have been the scenes of late at the capitol and some other places, which have pretty much subsided at present; we yet remain quiet here, and I hope shall not be attached, at least this year, its possible though not very probable that by the Spring some change for the better may take place. We are unwilling to quit the town unless eminent danger appears, which if should be the case hope we may be

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favoured to act with propriety, but dont be uneasy for us; perhaps in fleeing from a lion a bear may meet us.

I received thy acceptable letter of the 12th mo. long since and one of the 7th mo. 31 by Trism. Gardner, both which I have perused and re-perused with great satisfaction; I well know thou must have very sensible felt the want of thy dear Mother, expecially in thy last illness, but were much comforted in finding thy mind was attended with so much patience, resignation and quietude, invaluable companion, in dispensations of affections; a Rock and Refuge in every storm that may be permitted. It was an additional favour in having the company and kind attendance of this dear sister Sarah, (for whom we are now anxious to hear, respecting her illness, as she was only on the recovery by our last letter) she with the rest are affectionately near to us. I hope with thee that we may be permitted once more to meet in our native land, but I fear it will a little exceed the time we proposed when we left America, as one of the objects which drew me hither cannot be compliated until the return of the vessells now out, if they should return well, and that is; a full settlement of our business here so far as respects myself, that I may wholly withdraw from it, believing it is time for such a step, and although I have no active part in it, yet in the present state of this country, my mind is necessarily engaged, to save, but not to get; and the grasshopper (compartively) as to business hath long since become a burthen, but be assured notwithstanding my attachment to England, it is still stronger for America; there is nothing in Europe that can invite us to a longer stay, than necessity shall

require; no future¹ prospects of outward things² can compensate for our separation beyond the time that shall appear to be right, but should our detention exceed our expectation don't be uneasy. I have been somewhat accustomed to disappointments for this seventeen years past my life has not experienced much indulgence under the rays of a bright sun, nor has my rest been often on beds of down, but have rather been much exposed to many storms upon this tempestuous sea of life, subjected to many perils and not wholly exempt from that of false brethren, but my desire is to endeavour to render good for evil, this can only produce peace; that peace which the world is a stranger to, while I am favoured with this disposition it reconciles many trials that attend, it makes hard things easy and bitter things sweet, and what matter is it if we meet with many probations, if they have but their proper operation to bring us nearer to that city whose walls are salvation and gates praise. We have indeed been subjected to some close trials, some untrodden paths to tread in this place, where the precious testimony hath been deeply concerned but all has ended well thus far. Greater we may probably yet meet with, in which I only crave the blessing of preservation; that we may answer the great end of our Creation, and in the end find an admittance in the Mansion of Eternal bliss, where the wicked cease from troubling and the weary are at rest.

Lydia and myself spent about 11 weeks of the summer in England, we made a visit to several Q. of N. Y., in the north. I had sometime wished this opportunity for her, which I believe has terminated not only to her satisfaction but

lasting proffit. If she does but hold fast what she then received in several private settings, a stream of Gosple communication was directed to her in particular; of the gracious benefits in store for her upon a full dedication of heart. Though many disagreeable things sometimes have attended, yet in the midst of all we have been much comforted in the company of many friends in the Ministry, all dignified servants, and several of the most eminent, mostly females, all of them my acquaintances some most intimately so, besides public meeting they all had precious opportunity in our family, which I hope will remain as indealible characters upon all our minds, especially our children to whom the communications were mostly directed, such visits thou will readily believe are to me the most delicious treats (next to my own family) I must refer thee to thy dear Mother and sister for particulars of our visit to Eng. the fd. that have visited us, and Banj. accompanying several to Guernsey, much to his satisfaction and I believe improvement. It is time for me to conclude have many letters to write. I desire thou would communicate my dear love to Sister Rodman & family, to my relatives and friends where thou think it will be acceptable and accept an almost unbounded share thyself and the children.

Your affectionate Father,

Wm. Rotch.

#7p1

Dunkirk, 10th mo., 1, 1792

Dear Sister

As my mind is often taking its flight to my native Land, among the few pleasing scenes that have chequered the latter part of my life, I frequently recur to the days that I have spent under thy hospitable roof, and the hours I have enjoy'd in thine and thy dear childrens company, which never fails to excite an ardent wish that if consistent with the will of Divine Providence, I might again participate of the same favour; but whether that may ever be the case, is known only to Him whose wisdom is inscrutable, and will ever remain infinitely beyond the comprehension of finite Beings; we are now far seperated, yet I trust not at all times destitute of some evidence, that the uniting bonds of true fellowship still remain, not only without suffering any diminution, but if possible with an increase, far beyond the increase of corn, wine, or oils, which I hope will continue when ages of mortality shall be dissolved. I need not undertake to discribe to thee, the almost insupportable anxiety that we suffer'd on acct. of the illness of our dear E. Rodman, although we had recd. the most favourable accounts of her getting uncommonly well to bed, yet it was but a momentary relief to my mind, as a gloomy prospect which had long hung over me on her acct soon resum'd it former post, notwithstanding I was by this means in some measure prepar'd for the second tidings, yet nature gave way, and my fortitude was much shaken and an alarming apprehension succeeded; which from the near approach of her dissolution appears not to have been wholly groundless; but in matchless mercy she is thus far restor'd tho the time uncertain, to her dear relatives & friends, and still more interesting if possible; to her little flock, who have so much need of that maternal tenderness which hardly a substitute could equal; may this and our most ardent wishes, gratified in successfully forming and bending their tender minds to receive heavenly impressions, that if years of more maturity may be afforded them, they may be fitted for the further reception of durable riches; and that we her near relatives may be impress'd with abundant thankfulness for the preservation thus far of a life so dear to us; we were much comforted in finding she was favour'd with the company and unremitting care, attendance and attention of her beloved sister, our dear cousin Sarah, during her painfull conflict; for whom we are now solicitous having an account of her illness of a *** ploricy but was a little mending by our last letters, which I hope has increas'd to perfect health ere this time; may it be the will of Divine Providence to prolong the lives of such who are made instrumental in their measure for the good of mankind every way, a character I believe her justly entitled to, and not to her alone within thy borders, in which I may adopt a similar language to that of M Plesaly to Wm. Brown, "I do not mention these things, to exalt the creature or flatter my friends, but to magnify that Power, by which you are what you are.

I know by the various accounts you have and will receive, that great apprehensions for our safety will attend our friends: but we are yet quiet in this place, and our whole family favour'd with health, how long ~~this enjoyment may be permitted~~ we this enjoyment may be permitted we cannot pretend to determine even its probability; but we are not yet willing to flee, hoping that the Storm may not reach us this year; ~~terrible indeed hath been the~~ ~~executions in the~~ ~~Capital; & reaches this year;~~ terrible indeed hath been the executions in the Capital & its environs, as well as some few other places which copied after them, the law which was intended to secure person & property troden under foot, the number which fell victims to the murderers cannot be ascertain'd but is supposed to be from four to six thousand; at present it hath pretty much subsided, and I ardently desire no such indelible stain may ever be again permitted in this or any other nation; the dreadfull manner of many of those executions are too horrid to relate, therefore I wish to pass them by. Being desirous that Lydia should have some opportunity in England, she & myself hath spent the most

of the summer in that Kingdom, much to her satisfaction and I hope to some lasting profits, that being my only wish for her in this undertaking, nor do I apprehend that curiosity had much influence on her mind; we set out in Company with several friends, among whom was Sarah Wilson (the only unmarried daughter of dear Rachel) as a motherly companion for her, to York Quarterly Meeting thence she went to Leeds then to Kendal Q Meeting (Sarah's residence) I turned North on business to New Castle & Carlisle & joined her again at Kendal, here was spent near a week in a most agreeable manner (wch. was also the case at York) thence to Lancaster Q Meeting and to Liverpool Monthly Meetg. both under the same protecting friendship; we then went to Colebrooks dale in Shrop Shires which also noted for its knidness and hospitality. I mean the family of our friend Ried. Reynolds, & Abiah Darby, I mention these particulars as to place that thou or thy beloved daughter may trace us on the map if you please, & the persons, you may hear of by some of the Friends who will probably ere long visit our land; we then took our course through Worcester to London thence to Buxkirk. We have been abundantly favoured with the Company of many valuable & eminent friends in the Ministry this year Deborah Townsend & Mercy Ransom, Deborah Darby & Rebecca Young-----Wm. Bleckley, Martha Routh & Christian Rustler, Edw. Hatton, Mary Dudley & Eliz. Pim (the last three from Ireland) whose labours among us have been much to our comfort; these delicious feasts have contributed to render our seperation much more easy. that it could otherwise have been, believing our being here is not wholly repugnant to what is right. Benj. accompanied the last three Friends to Guernsey, had a dangerous passage, where they had several Meetings with a few friends & others, there are about twelve members in Society on the Island, but many sober people, with many more of rude behaviour. at one of the large meetings they had, that Is-- Island has been visited by several public Friends this year.

At New York we lodg'd at the House of our much valued Friend Wm. and Esther Tuke, he is very well in health & active, but she is very infirm and almost blind; but lively greenness still accompanies her in this late period of life, beautifull indeed it is to see old age cover'd with the Canopy of pure love, she could not get out to all the meet'g but was at most of them, and appear'd several times to great satisfaction, we went with her to what she calls her Goshen; Linley Murrys formerly of N York who is very infirm having for many years lost the use of his ~~eight~~ limbs & his wife Hannah a daughter of Tho's Dobson of N York is also in a poor state of health; they are valuable friends; here she had an excellent oppor. in testimony, much to the comfort I believe of all present; she desired her dear love to thee & wishd herself capable of writing to thee, she is one of my choice friends, whose company I am always glad to embrace. I have scratchd much more than I expected & fear thou will not be able to read it. Thy acceptable letter of the 3, 11th, I duly recd. & perused it with satisfaction, as a renewal of that affection which I hope will ever remain, I wish thee to continue thy communication whenever opportunity & freedom presents. It is time I drew to a conclusion therefore may say the united love of our dear family attends thee & thy dear Children in which I am thy affectionate Brother

Wm. Rotch

B.S. Brother Starbuck & Co. arrivd safe at Milford Haven the 20th of last month.

Letter from Wm Rotch

10th mo. 16th 1792--

**** Answd.---

WILLIAM ROTCH JUNR.

NEW BEDFORD

Letter from the Editor

Dear Sir, I have

been thinking

of the many

of the many

my dear Son Samuele Rodman

Our late critical situation, renders it necessary to keep our Children advis'd of such occurrences as may have a prospect of influencing our continuance at or removal from this place, as I know you will feel great anxiety for us; when the Mary saild (5th inst & I believe had a fine passage out of the Channel) our apprehensions were at the height; but she had not been sailed more than two hours before we recd the intelligence of the Duke of Brunswicke having begun his retreat, which has continued, though very slowly, through the difficulty of passage by the great rains, which renders it almost impracticable for heavy Carriages to pass in the Low Countries in some of the Roads; the sickness in his camp & the want of provisions with a body of the French Army hanging on his Rear have been additional obstacles to his progress, this has been a pompous, though an alarming expedition; the King of Prussia, in person, attending the army probably thought to march direct to Paris with little opposition; I pity the suffering of the poor Soldiers who are so often led to the slaughter, either by the Sword, famine or pestilence to aggrandize the Ambition of Princes, doubtless the King was deceived by the Emigrants in supposing he would be recd with open arms as soon as his formidable force entered France; how this disappointment will operate time will determine, I sincerely wish it may put an end to the further intervention of Foreign Powers, & leave France to settle their own Government, but I am rather apprehensive, that almost the whole force of Europe on the Continent will unite in another attempt next Spring; if so I wish they may by some Providential means be equally disappointed; by which its probable ~~*****~~ many thousand lives might be spared; but what has most immediately effected us favorably is; the Siege of Lille being raisd & the Austrians returned into their own Country; the consequence of this Siege was of great importance to us in this place, if it had fell, doubtless their next push would have been here; the prospect was alarming, but through Divine favour we are relieved from our apprehensions at present; yet not without anticipation of the probability of their return in the Spring; the Town was much alarmed one day by an

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express sent from Cassel that they were in full march with a large body for this place & had reachd the Skirts of that Town 18 miles from us, but it prov'd a Small body of about 30 which were discover'd by some Peasants; I intended to have sent thee the Falkland in the Spring if any men had appeard to take her out on easy terms, but our present criticale situation has determined me to keep her ready for the embarkation of our family to Engd at a late period, if an attack is likely to be made on us, as I am unwilling to quit the Town before there appears an absolute necessity for our safety. --- the Maria sail'd the day before Yesterday, but the strong westerly winds have driven her backe to the Roads this day--- the Ann Thads Coffin arrivd yesterday, she sailed before the vessell that brought us the acct of the Dianna being full, the Ship we shall now expect in a few days when we hope to hear ~~from~~ some addition to the Canton. we are all favour'd with health except color^h which are now upon many, & severale of our family are attack'd but hope the worst is pass 'd with them--- Benjn young child had been long unwell, seem'd to fully recover, but was lately taken unwell again, & remains very feeble, yet is on its feet sometimes, but much relaxed by it is teething, which thou know is a trying time.----- Paul Coffin has 3rd sht directions to call on thee for a Bill of Exchange for £ 63 - odd Stg on T Dickason & Company, unless he chooses to take his balle in Livers here 2300 & odd wch his acct sent him will determine; he is to determine with thee immediately which he will choose; we both forgot to mention it in our letters to thee pr the Mary ----- the Maria goes for Coast of Peru, as we forsee the greatest prospect of this market being overdone with whale oile, there is now on hand of the Hopes, Edwards, Favorites & Judiths, I suppose not less than 400 Tuns the Ann just arrived 160 Tuns; expected the Dianna 150, Brothers David Swain 190 full the Abrn Matthew Starbucke had 40 Tuns can bring 160 the Canton 30 can bring 100, & both a good prospect of filling wch if so may be expected in a month more if this should be the case & they all arive it will make an addition of 760 Tuns to the 400 above mentiond-- and a very dull sale though this is the season for selling, & 30 Sail more monthly large that may be expected in 12 or 14 monthly frm this time that have gone after whale oile, if they succeed must with

3/

the American Oile overdo the Market next year. please tell Lydia Hussey I recd her letter & shall take care about her certificate, but doubt its being done before the next Yy Meetg, as we are not yet plac'd to any Meetg, altho the Certificates are lodg'd with the Meetg for Sufferings, I doubt their giving out any, except to return those that are lodg'd with them, now if she has gone to America with a view not to return here, she may have the Certificate she brot return'd, but whether this is the case or not I cannot determine; this lays with herself-- I am with united love of the family to you all, Thy affectionate father

W Rotch

1/

my dear Son Samuele Rodman

I recd thy favor last evening of the 9th mh 10th- and shall when at leisure & B returns frm London where he is gone with his wife on a visit, arrange & forward P. Husseys acct the Lydias 2 voiges to settle Weyers acct by & the rest- DeBauques mix'd the Bone of the severale voiges, unsold, together very injudiciously, but we find near the right diregction by apportioning it according to the originale wgt---- a quanty of One voige was sent to Paris & then returnd to Rouen, which in the whole fell short about 1/3 of what was ship'd, chiefly I suppose stolen.--- thou may account with Bachr Hussey for the small Bill of Nat Barnard wch I accepted & he has settled it with his owners, but I have not yet got the money but expect it soon. have wrote thee fully on Kennebec matters, but when I see Folger shall push it forward.--- I hope thou'll not purchase a vessell for Staves as they are so high, I thinke it would be much better to send one of the whale Ships for a load; but would have thee provide frm 50 to 100 my Ltd & Barle & get them to Bedford ready, for the Vessells can never saile again without a supply, unless Casks are purchas'd in London at a high rate, dont let any propos'd arrangement or alteration prevent thy getting a Qy Staves as we shall not suffer by them by dissolving the partnership when thou receives my letter wrote sometime ago (but I cannot tell in what date I mentioned it) thou'll see we fully agree in portioning the buildg the New vessell as I am quite of the mind to lay her for the present, but wish all the timber provided & kept intire; things have much changed since I first proposed buildg her, yet I have no doubt she may be a profitable speculation, but now I wish no addition of vessells of any kind; I fully approve thy proposale of dissolving the partnership and probably there never will be better time than at the return of the vessells if they do return well; should they bring good voiges, it will leave us well, provided a Market continues, as it is my full determination to be quit of them as they come in; the Diana we hope to sell/^{2nd}sht though she must go low being much run out, the Canton (who had 550 bs the 11th m 8mh & hope she will be in, in two weeks more) must sell her (or send her for Staves) if

2/

we can; the others are too distant to propose how they are to be disposed, altho with success thy property might be imploy'd to more advantage in this Country than in America, yet under the present unsettled State of this Nation, I thinke it much best that thou have thy property more at command; there is a great probability of the Fishery here overstocking the Market, the Sale at present is much duller than usuale at this season; partly owing to the great failures in Rouen which already amounts to twenty Million of livers and is expected to reach doyble that Sum, they were much connected with Bankers in Paris through whom they have recd this Stocke; Hombergs have some of our oile & more of DeBarque sent from here, but will not attempt to sell untill they see this business better arrang'd, for this caution we commend them. our Bone is all sold, the Hopes went off at 32 anshared and the Dianas (9743 wt to a market) at 98, some of the oil of both is sold about 75 Tuns of the first & 20 or 25 of the last 35 at 3 Lb good prices if the sale was quick; the Diannas oile turned out 1080 Barl she was full but no shooks if we had sent her for whale oil she ought to have brt 60 Whl in shooks wch would have brot her up £ 1200 which they might have probably fill'd & much more; but she sailed for Cape Horn where the quty of Cash was sufficient for two Crews please inform Thad Swain of the quty & state of her voiges we have not sold a Tun of Sperm oile of the Penelope & Mary, nor is it hardly enquired after.

We had a very severe triale on 6 day eveng by the Town being illuminated on acct of two Commissarys of & frm the N Convention sent to visit the Frontiers in the Qur. & endeavor to reconsile the people to the Government where necessary & unite them to one another, likewise to impress the Military with the odious and dishonourable maker of plundering the Inhabitants of such Towns as shall fall into their hands (for which Generale Custine shot three of his Officers and severale of his men & returned the plunder to the Owners) it was 3 in the afternoon when I first heard of the inland illumination the succeedg eveng; it shock'd me very much, Benjn was absent, & I not able to speak the language, many new troops in the Town that knew nothing of us;

3/

; our lives seemed greatly in danger by misconstruing our refusale, but as soon as I could recover alittle; it seem'd to fix strongly on my mind to go immediately to the commissary, & explain our reason & principles in this respect, I accordingly called on Benjn Hussey; & Louis Du Bauques to accompany us & introduce us, we *** found them surrounded with many people mostly of the Military ranke; Louis introduced us & represented our case, one of them immediately recognised me & mentioned that I was one of the persons that presented a petition to the Assembly of which he was then a Member, he tooke me by the hand and expressed his desire that we would nothing on their acct nor at any other time contrary to our Religious principles, with much more in the most liberale manner; then speaking the people much in our favour as a Society, & mentiond W Penn foundg the Govenmt of Pennsilvania on true liberty, & that the French Nation were now endeavourg to copy after that modle & etc we then took leave with great cordiality; when I returnd home I found a man placing lights before our doo~~ra~~s before last year, I suppose by order of the Mayor & Magistrates, but I know not by whom; but what is still more extraordinary; is that the Commissarys met a large body of people at the Town House at 7 in the eveng I suppose by appointment, where the same person who is a great Orator, harangued the people in a lengthy speech in which he did not forget to mention us again as a Society, being a peaceable people, and ought not to be molested in any nation, & desired we might be protected in our religious principles & that nothing might be required of us contrary thereto, but to leave us intirely to ourselves in this respect, with much more in our favour he tooke up a considerable time on this subject.--- (4th sh. thus have we once more been mercifully preserv'd through another scena of danger which at first was too much for my little fortitude to sustain, but that secret hand vouchsafed to appear in an eminent manner for our deliverance, as at severale other times since our arrivale in this land; which is cause of humble thankfulness and ought to reanimate us in endeavoring to hold up that measure of our blessed testimony committed to our charge; but those trials are severe, especially in this time of eminent

4/

danger when life is so easily taken by misinformed populace; but this lasttriale
I thinke will render our situation less dangerous than heretofore on acct of the
publickey manner in which our reasons were made known, but we are at this present
plac'd in a perelous situation, but as I believe it is all in wisdom & I hope will
tend to some advantage in the best sense, I am reconcild to stay untill the object of
my coming as to business is fully answer'd— I am with the united love of our family
to thee, dear Eliza (for whose reinstated health we much rejoice) the Childn with
our relatives & friends in Generale Thy affe father — W Rotch-

The Dianna was in time to save the return premium.

We are all well except colds.

Letter from Wm Rotch

Dunkirke 12 m 3 1792

relative to Dianna & Thad Swain----

***** Ans-----

William Rotch & Sons

Nantucket

1/

my dear Son Samuele Rodman

I wrote thee the 12th ult. since which have recd none from thee. The fishery from this place has been very successfull so far as we have heard; but its likely you will have part of the accts. I may now transmit long e're this reaches thee by Paul Hussey who left the Downs for N Yorke the 22d Ult. Silas Jones at Delago bay lost his second Mate a son of Geo. Bunker I believe his name was Cromwell, killed with a whale; a sorrowfull circumstance, a young man, & has left a widow. I thinke he married Jonn Ramsdly daughter-- Silas had 175 Tuns whale & 16 Tuns Sperm, had whale as fast as he could take it-- Alpheus Coffin full about 100 Tuns whale, had left Delago and is daily expected Edwd Starbucke in a London Ship frm same place some Sperm but little. we have this eveng acct fm London of the arrivale of Henry Delano off Falmh fm Coast of Peru which he left the latter end of the 7mh 110 Tuns Sperm & 30 Tuns whale; the Lydia had 40 Tuns Sperm oile 15th of 4 mh-- the Washington Bunker 30 Tuns & Favourite Barnard 45 Tuns the 18th of same mh both of Nantucket, no acct of any other Nantucket vessell, we have a list of 18 London vessells fm 13 to 180 Tuns all Sperm- I will mention a few that have connection at our Island-- Joshua Coffin 180 Tuns Wm Folger 100 Tuns 4th mh 10th & 18th-- Hope, Bunker 60 Tuns last of 6mh. Wm & Ann, another Bunker 19 Tuns in 7th mh-- Harpooner, Folger- 25 Tuns I dont know either of their given names, Fonthills- Pinkham, (I suppose Elisha)- 19 Tuns 7 mh 4-- Speedy Locke (Jnh) 40 Tuns 7 mh 2nd ---- I have mentioned before of David Swains arrivale with 1460 bls whale left Matthew Starbucke with 1000 bl Canton 550 all whale Gordon Hussey 300Ltd all at Woolich Bay. -- I hope thou has procured a Quty of Staves ; as vessells are too high to buy one in America, I /2nd /sht wish thou has sent Robt Macys little Brig with a load & have made up his pre.of frt. but as there is so little prospect of thy getting a vessell that will by any means do without a high prâce, hope thou'll not get one, as we have decided to send out the Canton for a load as soon as she arrives; therefore hope thou'll procure 50 or 60 Thound hhd & Barrels so as to dispatch her soon; indeed if no frt appears, I have some

thoughts of sendg her direct to New Yorke; I thinke thou had better write to J Par-
son & Son immediately to make some provission when they come to Market in the Spring;
they will probably never be low again in america therefore thou must not omit provid-
ing because they are advanc'd, for the demand will be such here that they will even
pay a frt-- if the Lydia should bring a good voige its probable we shall send her
head to thee & Wm as we shall not want to worke it here. we have now in London but
about £ 2700 Stg but a great deale of property here wch when sold shall not be fond
of remitting it therefore safety as I doubt trouble is not far distant in that King-
dom; I wrote thee long since to draw on DeBarque for One Thoud Stg. & Thos. to draw
Six hundred, thou may add five hundd more if thou needs itif we could sell what pro-
perty we have now here, & will come into our hands by advances on whale is already
arrived I thinke it would amount, with what is in Londonto Eight Thoud Stg. wch need
not be touchd in the outfit of any vessell but there is very little Sale for oil
at present, now of the Penelope sold except one Tun, near 100 Tuns of the Hopes on
hand, little of the Diannas sold. we are endeavoring to sell the Dianna, but can
get no offer for her, her hull is good but otherwise very much run out, she wants a
New Main Mast wch have sent for to London have made a foremast of the old Main Mast
with considerable expenssee of clampg it with planke, 2 new(fore & main) Tops every
new shroud to the three masts except lpr of a side to the Main Mast new main & fore
stay, 2 pr new backe Stays, 1 new cable, large anchor for best bower as hers does not
hold well, but will do for the third anchor 1 new foresaile, 3 new Topsails 1 fore /3rd
staysaile, & 1 Top Galt Saile-- 1 topmast & topsaile yard----- considerable more cord-
age than I mentioned; we wish to get £ 800 Stg for her if we can, have yet asked more,
but can get no offer for her, I mean £ 800 includg everything as she came from sea.---
as we cannot fit her out on the present concern, we give Thads Swain at the above
rate for his Quarter, but no more; as we would gladly sell her at that, please to see
what can be done, & settle it at that if thou cannot get her for less-- France hath
overrun Brabant not for conquest but to set them at liberty from the Emperore.
but its feard we shall have a War with England as its no expected France will endeavor

to open the Scheld; wch from their alliance with Holland will probably bring them in
I wish it may (be other)-wise.-- we have another very severe triale to pass, yesterday
was a great day of rejoicing for the progress of the French Army & a very great
illumination in the eveng. but we have been preserved though not without great anxiety
for our safety, lights I suppose by order of the Magistrates were placd as heretofore
before our doors, & no harm done us; but these are severe trials, as life is in danger,
B & E still in London. we are all well, the post hour calls me to a conclusion. with
the united & abundant love of our family to you all as if named-- I am thy affe father-

W Rotch

Letter from Willm Rotch dated Dunkirke

12 mh: 15th 1792

Ansd-

William Rotch & Sons

Nantucket

pr Wm Handy

My dear Son Samuele Rodman

I duly recd they very acceptable favours Ns 25,26,27 pr Mooers(who with his Son stept into our house before we knew of his arrivale they had a fine passage of 32 ds all well) & Capn Prince, who arrivd at Havre the same day that Laban arriv'd here (the 8th Inst).- I am glad for the communications between thee & R Dean respecting the Legacy & ao the plan thou hast propos'd I fully approve, only wish to know its being executed by her Brother, I am afraid thy just application of Thomsons line will remain in full force upon him; how it is possible that there should exist such unfeeling wretches to so near connections ? can it ever be so with mine? no- if I could entertain the least trait of such a disposition, my life would be im-bitter'd thereby, but tranquility reigns in my breast, and I trust will ever remain undisturbed in that respect; but I wish thee to pay her the £ 50 immediately if not done, which hope it is, when thou writes her remember me affectionately to her, I feel much sympathy for her, indeed it must be a trying circumstance to any generous mind(of which perhaps they have possess'd a larger share than was necessary or prudent) who have liv'd in such affluence, to be reduc'd to poverty; which seems now to be their case. -- I shall endeavor to comply with cousin Jonn Macys request respectg $\frac{1}{2}$ Thed's voige when he arrives, to whom & wife be pleas'd to give my love. I am sorry we did not send more 80 Ge pots, but shall make an addition in the Spring- I wish to know how those cast in moulds are approved, the bottoms are made thicker than the former; but shall send no more 6os,---we were much decieved by the head /2nd_{sht} Carpenter that repaird the Maria in his survey whether by ignorance or design I cannot say, though she prov'd more rotten than he or we immagined, I cannot yet exactly ascertain her Cost, but believe double the sum I mentiond to thee frm Shields of Liverpoole; but she is now worth more than when new; we were really afraid to send her across the Ocean, though Mooers would gladly have taken her.----- the strange infatuation for innoculation is unaccountable; I hope thou with Eliza & thy Mother have escaped it, though I suppose somewhat expos'd while at Bedford, I wish if you ever have it, we may be favour'd to be with you, & treat you as Benjn & B H treat their patients here, in which they have been much favoured to go through very easy, no

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medicine, but a much stricter regimen than your Doctor adopt; when oppressed with the fever, they set their feet and legs in warm water, which generally draws it down, and sometimes on accassions, wine whey, but no juices of the most innocent meats, but Rice, Rice pudding, with or without apple, Cranberries & other undried fruits and other simples which is very good, butter or grease of any kind no spirits nor fermented liquors. --- I am truly glad the new Ship is laid by, & that thou hast made a barrier to keep the timber in the water, & intend to provide Cedar; all which I wish done & keep the materiale together; the exche getting better prevented my engaging for the Ship at Havre, for if it had been at 48 " I could have got her hull complete of about 260 Tuns for 36 or 37000", which would have been very cheap for a choice good vessell that would probably have lasted 30 years with one repair, but now it is at 36-10 to 38-10 the Cost of the hull is the same, which now makes it high though by no means so high according to the quality of the Vessell as an American ship, but we want no addition to our navigation under the present state of affairs in this Country, if we are favour'd to return we may take one of the Whale ships if they return safe.--- I am very glad thou could not find a vessell to purchase to run between this Port & America, the few Staves pr the Bedford are in good season of /3rd sht if Shub's Ship brings the 20mh with the beef & perhaps some Cedar Boards & timbers will answer our purpose fully untill we can send out a vessell for a further quoy but I desire thee would not faile to have 50 or 60 Or more thousds while Oake Lld & barrels Staves provided at New Yorke the ensuing Spring, which I agree with thee is the best market to purchase at and the proper place for the vessell to load from. ---I never expect lumber of any kind will be low again in Amarica.----- if the 200 Bs. Beef comes thou need not send any more.----- I long since wrote to Thomas to draw Six hundred pounds Stg on DeBauques when he can appropriate it to advantage--- Thy Bill of three hund. is not yet come to hand but will be duly honor'd when appears; the bills thou sent on DeBs. for 114 L -odd are at hand & good. I have severale times wrote thee to draw on DBs for a thousand pounds this L 300 may be accounted as a part- when thou needs the other L 700-- or any part draw; that sum was with Thos. 600.- and the pur-

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chased of Jefferys Seconet farm if not too late (7000 Ds) wch I have given Wm positive directions to effect if he can, will take up our money in London, though we have much property in Oile here wch we shall not touch in an outfit perhaps Eight hund pounds; when sold I shall perhaps place some in London & some in America for thee & me. I shall endeavor to forward Cryspus's acct as soon as we know the amt of his voige, there must be a balle due to him; but we have not sold more than One tun of the Penelopes oile & on call for it, Whale oil goes off heavily. I am glad thou supplies Morelander Sparingly, indeed I dont know why he needs any if he sent his money home, wch I expect he did, but the worst acct is Ben Clarke his wifes extravagance is not bearable, & I suppose he must have supplied her with money & etc his voige in the Hope amounted to about 3100 " he received here 2300 " so that only 800 remains, this with his long voige in the Canton wch may be 1000" more will pay no /4th^{sht} more at the most than L 66- Lmt. so that on a considerable voige for himself in the Lydia, with the necessary sparing supplies added he cannot have any great to receive; his little voige in the 2 friends will add something.-- O Paddacke I wish thee to supply fully; I intend taking a Sterg. bill of Coffin Whippey for his amount- Clothier Allen left as he & we apprehended 300 livers towards the continued supplies for his family, but we found an error in the addition of his acct of 100" short on the debit side which leaves only 200 " -- the 300 was much short of thy acct agt. him recd. after he went away, & I suppose some addition before his arrivale, I hope he settled it except the error of 100 ", wch he did not know of -- indeed the prospect of Engd tak* ing part against France wch, now very probably renders it necessary to be as sparing of supplies as possible to those people that are out, & if captured before their return, have nothing to pay.-- I am glad that our vessells are all insur'd in Engd. except the Maria on which we have nothing the Osprey is our risque. ---- I wrote thee in my last the Canton arriv'd safe the 8th Int. full they turned up 950 Bs. in the Bay & as there yet appears but little leakage hope she will turn out 850 6r 80 all well, Matthew Starbucke arrived the next day full also but considerable leakage; Matthew cut himself with a knife just above the knee 40 days before his arrivale wch intirely

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confind him; he was getting on crutches the day before yesterday the wound almost
heald, but the part weak probably for want of exercise. Alpheus Coffin arrivd at
Calais somedays ago full abt. 100 Tuns will probably be here today; the fishery in
Walwick and Delago has been all they could wish this year; the Canton tooke a whale
every other day untill she was full.-- Gorham Hussey 1200 Bls & whales plenty, him-
self with Jos Russell (1200 Bs) the only vessells left in Woolwich Bay.-- the Canton ^{5th} sh
we shall now take out of the fishery to send to America for Staves & etc. but wheth-
er immediatly, or wait untill the Lydias arrivale & etc. cannot determine but believe
shall wait a while, & if no frt. appears send her direct to N Yorke & perhaps after
loadg may go to Bedford & if any cedar Boards to bring may take some on the upper
decke or take out some of the Staves between decks---- the Dianna is still on Sale
but
but can get no offer, we are getg her mast in, one arrivd frm London yesterday. I am
glad thou art providing the Taut press compleat except the Bar.----- part of Enderbys
balle yet remains which we shall appropriate; and shall enquire into the little sum
against A Champion when I have opportunity. shall also make the additionale charge
of wharfage 2% Enderbys acct. but does not 1/3 belong to us to pay. I am glad thou
hast bot & sold the Union. I must keep the Falkland for sometime as we may want her.
she would do well for a skin voige; am sorry we did not pursue ours in the first attempt
but I wonder more that H-- did not enter upon it afterwards; his premium perhaps suf-
ficed- he had a right to benifit by his knowledge----- the improvement by R More whale
foots is beyond my expectation, but if they are so fine I wonder at thy thinkg them
no object of consequence, unless the process is slow & expensive; B F has no right to
the patent therefore hope it will be taken from him. I am very glad thou hast relin-
quished Town Meeting, for really the conduct there is a disgrace to the community I
mean such as it was last year in the choice of a Fed. Rep. I hope B Worth's advice
will have some good effect in preventing our frds from uniting in such corrupt conduct;
enterg deeply into politicale matters of any kind, is ever dangerous to the cause of
Religion. am pleased to hear the New Meetg house is compleated, & a good Model, & that
the Old one's so forward & probably before now finishd; thou hast never inform'd me

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whether my subscription was effected, or whether not wanted as thou once apprehended; I wish the ----- may continue to withhold, for such contaminated filth I do not wish united to others. -- I have no doubt as thou observes, the dagger is always ready, I only wish to give no just occasion for it to be drawn; he knows I fear neither his power nor his talenz, though he may stab & wound in the darke upon the principle of common assassins; I thought that the stroke of justice on the two Estates, to keep them out of the Lions paw; would be mortifying, but as I know it is just it should be so, it will render every mind easy that contributed to it.-- I fully approve thy not sending an Inventory untill it can be compleat, when it can be done I wish it, as I am desiring to make a full settlement befor I return to America, which I wish could be affected so as for us to leave Europe next Summer, but see no prospect of it untill the summer after I long to be with you, be assured nothing but necessity shall retain me in Europe longer than I mention; if I am favoured with life & Health, I have some thoughts of spending part of the winter in Engd.----- I have been long expecting Job Scott, but if he is detain'd for want of clear vision in the two thou mentions I doubt his reaching this country soon, as I fear the mist is too thicke over the eyes of one easily to be dissipated, unless he has pd I etc. -- the --- pounds ---- the English Parliament was provoy'd to the third of next month, but from some troubles in Engd. & the affairs of France it was suddenly call'd the 13th- we have been anxiously waiting for the Kings Speech as the criterion to Judge from; it has arriv'd this afternoon, by which it appears that a War against France is decided on, this will probably embolden Spain & Russia to take the same step, these combined fleets doubtless will make formidable appearance against this Country, what the event will be time will discover, but it is far beyond the reach of man.---- thy observation is just, respectg my taking a part in the welfare of yr family, respectg Hannahs affair, I can only say I wish her to act as may appear best; I have some acquaintance with Samle and was always glad to be in his compy & may say sincerely love him; & never saw anything but a steady consistent conduct in him & if they ever come together, they have my most sincere wishes for their present & future happiness-----

I desire thou would pay Elizh Wootin Fiveteen pounds Sterling by direction of her brother Paul Pease who is now here, & he is to have so much passed to our cr.

with Enderby, I wish thee to do it soon.-----

I wish to have given thee some particular acct of the affairs of this nation, the tr
iale of the King & etc. wch is now going on but have not time. -- I am with the united
love of our family present to thee, dear Eliz the Children with our relatives & friends
in generale

Thy affectionate father -----

W. Rotch

Dunkirk, 12th mo, 16th, 1792

#1271

Not checked

My dear Son Thomas

When I clos'd Wms. & Sammys letters yesterday to go by Handy, I had not time to write thee, but as he is detain'd by contrary winds, it gives me oppor^t to acknowledge thy very acceptable letter of the 10th mo-----it is cause of humble thankfulness to the Author of all Good, that thy dear wife & thine & near & dear relatives have been favour'd to pass the Small pox so easily, I wish the impressions of those, with the manifold other mercies extended to our family may never be erased, and the way for the continuance of the impression is to endeavour ever to keep in view of the great end of our Creation, that the purpose thereof may not be frustrated, then may we hope for preservation, in heights and depths, things present, and things to come, for whilst we are in mortality, our passage through time may well be compar'd as being on a Sea of Glass, ever in danger without a continual watch, of slipping sometimes to the right hand and sometimes to the left: my dear son may thou ~~and thy~~ and thy dear help mate be a guard and a strength to each other, in religious progress, I believe her to be a choice companion to thee, may thou be so to her, whic I dont mention from any cause of doubt; then you may go hand in hand up to the mountain of the Lord, and to the house of the God of Jacob who will teach you of his ways & enable you to walk in his paths; may you now in early life, be bound to Law and to the Testimony, there is need of good examples as well as faithfull labourers, in every station in the Church, all ought to be watchmen & watchwomen, all ought to be overseers one of another for their good; and not lay the burthen on those that are plac'd in such stations by the Church, was this more the concern of professors in generals there would be a greater infirmity & consistency of conduct among us as a society in all parts where my lot has even been cast. I am pleased that you had the Comp. of our valued frd. I & E Mott, such guests are profitable, and frequently leave a savour behind them that sometimes remains as a sweet memorial of their company and labours, had we not have been bless'd (a term I may justly apply) with a number of the most valuable messengers, as I have heretofore mentiond (none having visited us since Edw'd. Hatton, Mary Dudley & Eliz'b Pimm, who I suppose I mentioned in mine of the 8 mo 18th being two days after their arrival) I could hardly have been content to have remind her, but most of those being not only my intimate friends & acquaintance, but highly valued by me their visits were truly delicious feasts; but I fear the way will now be hedg'd up by an additional calamity of war, which England seems determin'd to wage with this Country, in which no doubt most of the Powers of Europe that are not already enter'd, will engage the event will be, He who holds the secrets of Wisdom in his own hands only knows. I am sorry your oil shipments turned out so poorly but much might have sav'd by timely precaution: the remittance at last was below my limits which was \$ 18 if I had risqu'd it until latey it might have been at 20, but I dare not wait, for in the interveining periods to this time it has been worse and a prospect once of it almost to nothing-----as to the place thou hast been at work on to the Northward of Wms. house, thou may consider it as thy own if it suits thee for a house spot, and improve it as thou pleases, as to the Streets the length of the lots; I have no choice in it nor do I know enough about the situation to make any judgment, but have left to Wm. to do what he thinks most advantageous to the Estate. As to the house of Doc'r Perrys I do not like to sell it & at present therefore let it be rented; if there was a good room & chamber added to the north end, if that is the right end, of 18 feet at least clear, I should like it. Its not impossible there may be a considerable addition of vessells to Bedford if a war with Eng'd. of which we fully expect, & nigh at hand. I have heretofore wrote thee to draw on the DeBauques for Six hundred stg. whenever thou can make use of it to advantage which I now confirm. I wish Wm would conduct the water from the Spring down to the Wharf in wooden pipes the expence would not be much, and the advantage great. I rec'd. the enclosed frm. thy dear Sister Hannah in thy lot-

516 Dec 17923

#1272

ter; I thought it was in Wms. and in his made a little remark on the subject
tho of no consequence, it is so detach'd that he may cut it out & give it
thee as an appendage to this-----I would gladly write to her if I had time
but dont expect is as its probable Handy will go for London this evening.

I am with endeared love to thee dear Charity, Sister Rodman with all her
family T & Nancy, Jos. & Patience my old frd. Jermy when thou sees him & wife
with Jermy Jun'r and his-----J. Davis & wife & others in thy freedom in which
of our family unites & am thy affc't father

Wm Rotch

Same as letter #1

13 Aug 1792

Letter from Wm. Rotch
Dunkirk, 8th mo 13th, 1792
xxxxx Answd.

WILLIAM ROTCH & SONS

NANTUCKET

SAME AS letter #1

Letter from Wm. Rotch
Dunkirk, 8th mo 13th, 1792
xxxxx Answd.

WILLIAM ROTCH & SONS

NANTUCKET

Dear Son Saml Rodman

I wrote thee from Liverpool & London but cannot recur to the date: an opportunity now presents pr Capn. Caleb Gardner for Newbury & Nantucket, but I can say little at present for want of time his departure being sudden, & having our very near & dear frd Christiana Hustler and Martha Routh & Wm. Bleckly with us who (expect to leave us tomorrow) will oblige me to be as concise as possible.

I have now before me thy acceptable letters, No. 19 - 20, 21 & 22 4 mo 23d - 5 mo 1 & 9 & 6 mo 15 - in the first place, & the matter of the most importance, is to acknowledge with gratitude the Mercy of Him to whom we owe our lives, and all our dependance, in vouchsafing to raise thus far our dear daughter from her low state, but we are not yet free'd from anxiety on her account finding she gained strength but Slowly and remembering our Qly Meetg was approaching & she might, by her care, be overdone, but as thou mentions no distant friend attended the Y Mg, perhaps your company might not be so large nor of that description that might require so much care as sometimes I am very desirous she should pay particular attention to her health; I must again though very reluctantly defer writing to her by this oppty. I do not expect to have time to make answer to thy letter, but shall pick out the most materiale The Maria was to come out of Dock at N. Sheffield last 5th day, expect her here in 3 or 4 days, I suppose her repairs may come up to £ 400 Stg. — I wrote thee (I believe) that I thought it would exceed £300 but they found much more to do than they first expected, I have some time since given up every expectation of selling any more livers in America, as long as the convulsions remain in this Government, am not sorry Anthony's could not find a vessell, The Bill fm Anthonys on Lane & Co. was punctually pd. Wards affairs, with Duers & Co., I understand are provided for in Engd, but know not the truth of it. I am glad to find the fatal infatuation of Speculations in the funds have very little affected friends, I wish we may always be so wise as not to run with the Multitude especially in Stocke Jobbing thou may draw on D. Bauque a Thousand pounds Sterg, when thou think it will do on acct of the Exche. thy draft on Dickison & Co. is accep-

ted & I have replac'd the money in their hands, but don't make any Speculations for this Country as nothing can be done to advantage. Thos may also now draw on D. Bauques if the Exchange is good for a Thousand as the remr of Stock Profit.

I thought at the outfit of the Ships I could send thee a compleat Statement of our property here, but having the Penelope & Hopes Cargoes on hand, deprives me of the possibility; our money in London & her is much diminished on acct of the purchase of the Ann & outfit of all the Ships.-We have now in London, but about four, out of that must come the Maria's repairs & purchase of 100 Tuns Casks frm N. Shields about £ 500 Stg.- thou may depend on our keeping our Eye on head & foote, when will do ; but as we are only concern'd one half in the Manufactory here, we can do nothing for ourselves or Wm in pressing out the oile here & sending out pressd head or foots, but the oil that comes out of it (if any head of foots sent from here) may be returned in some of the came Casks , the head goes in, to this Port & be duty free, but must be the individuale oile extracted from the shipd from here. I shall attend to the Iron kettle thou writes for,- also the distillation of water on bd Ships.-
-
Jed Fitches acct is settld & pd & I believe right balce.396-19-3 . thou must pay Lawrence Crispus order for £30 Lmd as there will be enh & considerable left out of the Penelopes voige & part of his Sons with Isaih Hussey indeed there is almost enh after the discount is deducted on the Ct. of his voige down to the Cantons to pay his account, includg Lawrences which thou sent me say £ 59 odd Lmd wch acct I long since forwarded thee, & only mentiond drawing for the ballance that he might stand the just loss. I will let thee know the whole amt due to Crispus as soon as I can.(3rd pg
1st sh.)
Ezechile Glover forbids any more supplies to his Mother or the family wch please to attend to, & send us the acct down to the time thou receives this. we cannot give Claghorn more than 16 Dollars per Tun, if we had made no provission for the vessell I would have had her built at Havre, where as the exchge now is she would not cost us so much by 25 or 30 per ct as in America & would probably last twice as long, as its not probable we can be ready to return if life and health is spar'd untill the Spring of 94 about 20 or 22 months from this time, if the New Ship could be compleated to the best

Dunkirk 8th mo 13th 1792

advantage to be here timely for that I should like it, but not less the timber can sufficiently season'd & vessell as much time to be as good as built, boaring the holes for the trunnels whether before of after the planke is on will contribute much to the seasoning. I thinke thou had better make no insure for the future in America if there is time to give us notice here to have it done in London, I had both the Canton & Osprey insur'd in London not knowing thou intended it in America, timely to omit it. all our whole Ships are insur'd, this perhaps, thou will hardly approve; but I thought it really necessary in the present state of things in this Country; I should not have done it on acct of this risque of the Sea, but feard Commissions being granted by Emperour, which if done, would have set many Engh to work, am glad to find it is not so as yet. I thinke by the best calculations I can make, notwithstanding, the many disadvantages we have labour'd under in loss of exchange & heavy sums for Insurance & etc. we have perhaps nearly doubled our Stock, & with this additional advantage, our vessells except the Maria, being all at Sea, and not more than 50,000 lb yet to pay, the Bountys having already been appropriated that way, that if they should be successfull it will add a considerable sum of clear money, but I cannot calculate so fully on the property in oile here on acct of the danger that may attend this as well as other places engg'd in War, knowing that destruction comes sometimes unexpectedly.- I am truly glad that all ccts are settled between Wm & us to his & thy satisfaction; I looke forward with some satisfaction to the time of my leaving the business & retiring, which I wish to be at the return of the Ships for which let this be sufficient notice to thee, I believe its now time for that event, being weary of the concerns of business though very little of the Active part falls to my lot, yet the unsettled state of things here & the depreciating paper system has too engross'd my mind, though it has been in savings rather than in gettings. thou must continue supplies to C. Morelander & others in our employ, but I hope he will not want much as I suppose he sent home considerable money besides paying his account up to that time it was sent. I am pleas'd thou hast done so well with the Bounty warrants, thou has done well in not sell the remr under par, as to the divission of the money, I am much

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Dunkirk 8th mo 13th 1792

advantage to be here timely for that I should like it, but not less the timber can sufficiently season'd & vessell as much time to be as good as built, boaring the holes for the trunnels whether before of after the planke is on will contribute much to the seasoning. I thinke thou had better make no insure for the future in America if there is time to give us notice here to have it done in London, I had both the Canton & Osprey insur'd in London not knowing thou intended it in America, timely to omit it. all our whole Ships are insur'd, this perhaps, thou will hardly approve; but I thought it really necessary in the present state of things in this Country; I should not have done it on acct of this risque of the Sea, but feard Commissions being granted by Emperour, which if done, would have set many Eng to work, am glad to find it is not so as yet. I thinke by the best calculations I can make, notwithstanding, the many disadvantages we have labour'd under in loss of exchange & heavy sums for Insurance & etc. we have perhaps nearly doubled our Stock, & with this additional advantage, our vessells except the Maria, being all at Sea, and not more than 50,000 lb yet to pay, the Bountys having already been appropriated that way, that if they should be successfull it will add a considerable sum of clear money, but I cannot calculate so fully on the property in oile here on acct of the danger that may attend this as well as other places engg'd in War, knowing that destruction comes sometimes unexpectedly.- I am truly glad that all ccts are settled between Wm & us to his & thy satisfaction; I looke forward with some satisfaction to the time of my leaving the business & retiring, which I wish to be at the return of the S hips for which let this be sufficient notice to thee, I believe its now time for that event, being weary of the concerns of business though very little of the Active part falls to my lot, yet the unsettled state of things here & the depreciating paper system has too engross'd my mind, though it has been in savings rather than in gettings. thou must continue supplies to C. Morelander & others in our employ, but I hope he will not want much as I suppose he sent home considerable money besides paying his account up to that time it was sent. I am pleas'd thou hast done so well with the Bounty warrants, thou has done well in not sell the remr under par, as to the divission of the money, I am much

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better satisfied in the Crew having their share than otherwise altho I suppose it might not have been the intention of the Legelature, but they are poor (or most of them) and not subjects for us to contend with in our situation, & as the Mitchels have done it I wish not to be behind them in any good Act. I am pleased to find Fleming has paid up one of my brother's Notes & that Wm & Ths has the use of it, I intend send thee a state of his acct with me when time, he paid up the whole of the 10,000lb & Interest or loss long since & about 4000lb to me on my acct. I recd the Barle of Sugar very acceptable. we have no use for wt India. when suitable may forward a Bl of maple also some dry Codfish. The Rumour of a Spanish war is groundless, how soon it may take place in the present convuls'd state of Europe is uncertain: but it seems more distant with Spain than it appear'd some time past under the Ministry of Florida Blanco.- I do not expect your market will be gutted with Head Matter timely to worke next winter fm yr Ships gone round Cape Horn, understandg they are generally dull vessells & wooden bottoms which is much against them, that I think their voige s will be long.- I lately saw a Bill (but nothing further) drawn by Elizah Coffin on his owners for a small Sum which we intend to pay, it was dated at the Cape of Good Hope, I think in the 2nd mth, so I suppose he and Bartlett will go round the Cape. thy Bill for £ 50 in Morse acct, we have paid. thou'll continue supplies for his children if he desires it.- am glad you have at last got a Fed, Rep, I observe what thou says of the Friends from Ireland & Philada with I. Scott, I should be much pleas'd to see them but it is not probable that interview will take place this year.- I shall enquire respect Hemlock Barke, have heard nothing of its use here. blacke Oak barke has had a run in England, but I understand is rather getting out of repute; but whenever we have any vessells on hand they must generally bring staves, therf ore, wish thee to keep a large Stock at Bedford, both of the ltd. & Barrells, the consumption is so great here & the importation so small that some of the outfitters are much put to it to get their Ships out. I believe I have now unexpectedly run through thy letters & I believe answer'd though short to the severale particulars, shall now make a little addition in

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a few subjects.- as our Taught press Screw is in a doubtfull State by a Cracke, this, with a desire to have a press wholly our own determines us to have one from America as being much cheaper than from this quarter; Edson at Tittient Bridge or near it in the way to Boston from Bedford who is concerned in Iron Worke & has all the knowledge from Wilkinsons Successor that made our Screws, in that line of business told me he could make them on low terms, therefore, desire thou would get a Taught press compleat every way wood and iron, plates etc. made in America that nothing may be left for us to do but set it up here, the size to be the common sort now us'd, perhaps Wm may be suitable if not, he will know the necessary deviation, & send it here when an oppy in our own vessell, as we must have one, (vessell) to run between this and America so long as you are concern'd in the fishery to the present extent; this press we can set up in our own store to press head & foots for America or for any other use we may thinke proper & I think will answer a good purpose indeed if the Srews, male and female should come cheap two pair (with wood worke & other things for one only) would not be amiss, as a prevention for failing might not be amiss; it is an object certainly worth attending to, as sending the dry matter not refined, would bear 72 Per Ct, better than having it manufactured of American catching & bringg the Strained oil here under duty.-let it be done as soon as may be without faile. thy care respecting our situation & wishing us not to stay at risque in the present state of things is truly acceptable, & we shall attend to it, but I do not at present feele timorous; our situation truly is unpleasant in contemplating the State of the Kingdom, but as I wish not to flee but upon clear ground that it may be best; hope to be preserved in acting what shall be right. Lydia Gardner (now Pittman) is married out of Society, we have I believe fully discharged our duty towards her previous to that event according to our Discipline, & believe it will be safest for our Mercy to disown her, as her Certificate has not been recd in this Country, but laid by until we shall be plac'd to some Meeting in England.--\$ 16) the vessell I intend this by being detained has given me oppty to write Wm and I intended to have wrote thee more than I now find time will admit; we parted the day before yesterday with our D.R. Friends Christiana Hustler, Martha Routh & William Bleckley who spent about ten

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6/ Dunkirk 8th mo 13th 1792

Days with us greatly to our Comfort: and this morning three more on the same Religious mission have entered our house, Edwd Hatton (son of Susa) Mary Dudley, sister to C. Stocks & Elizh Pimm, all valuable friends & my acquaintances, I desire to prize these favours, as such a stream of the Ministry I had little apprehension would be extended to us; but this year we have had a much greater share of such company than we should probably have had in our own land; having had company of 10 in the course of about 4 months, & some more looking towards us; I wish their labours may be effectual in driving us home to the fountain of pure mercies, I wish I had time to enlarge on this subject; but the tide is near up & I must soon close.

the night of the 1st Int. will be a memorable period in this Nation; The violent patriotic party who now seem to have the rule in this nation, applied to the N. Assembly to have the King dethron'd or his Power suspended with ^{which} the Assembly did not comply; in consequence of this a mob about 100,000 surrounded the Palace in Tuileries (the Gardens) an appendage to the Palace was planted with Cannon & the King Guards for the protection of the Sovereign & etc- they broke into the Tuileries, were fired upon by the Guards, many killed, but they overpowered them (the Guards) & killed every man they could find, the King, Queen and family made their escape to the N. Assembly which is near the Tuileries, and were taken under their protection that night, & the next day under the protection of the Volunteer Nationale Guards & conducted to a little palace where they were safe the last acct; on his arrival at the N. Assembly he requested his Sovereign powers to be suspended, wch they immediately complied with this probably appeased the people they were tolerable quiet again; but deplorable indeed, is the State of this fine Kingdom; the combined forces are marching in great force against them, the event is only known to him who has the treasures & secrets of wisdom, & will do, & suffer to be done, as he pleases. I am afraid thou will hardly understand my scribble as I am driven now to a hasty conclusion, after saying the number killed in the late insurrection at Paris cannot be ascertained, the first acct was 8,000. the present 12 to 1500.- the latter is the most probable. I am with endeared love to thee

13 Aug 1792]

7/ Dunkirk 8th mo 13th 1792

dear Eliza the Children our relatives & friends in generale as though named in which our
whole family unites Thy affectionate father,

William Rotch

I have been a little more particular in Wm letter of this insurrection than I have
time here

Thomas Retch, New Bedford.

SAME AS letter #2

Dunkirk, 8th mo, 18th, 1792

My dear Son Thomas

Cap'n Cabb Gardner being detain'd by contrary winds gives me opportun't to send a few lines which I did not expect; whereby I may acknowledge the receipt of thine of the 4th mo, 19th, and 5 mo, 20th, -----The repeated accounts of thy dear Sister regaining her health thus far, is truly comfortable and I hope will impress all our minds with a Gratefull sense of the Mercy & favour of the Great Preserver of Men, in granting a little longer, a life so dear to us all her near relatives; but our anxiety is not wholly remov'd, find'g by Sam'l's last letter she mended but slowly; yet hope our next will convey more favourable acct. I found thou has given due attention to the Canton Stern knee; we had a great additional Carpenters bill here, owing I apprehend to the difficulty of getting workmen with you, I am glad to find you have timber eno. for the Maria, as we always ought to keep a stock by us, though we shall not want it for her; we expect her here in a few days frm. North Shield where she has been repaired at very little more than she would have cost in America & I suppose the whole time of her absense will not be more than two months.

I observe what thou mentions respect'g thy money in Hombergs hands, & a thought of having goods ship'd out, but we have countermanded your orders for goods to Homberg & your money is lodg'd in T D & co hands; we intend to pursue & have a prospect of executing your plan if the vessells arrive which are daily expected from Peru to put your property into head matter, we have the promise of the preference, & hope to get it at the same price we have purchas'd a parcels which we have mention'd long since to Wm & would have sent by the Ann if we dar'd; if we cannot get head we can then ship out your money in goods of such kind as will do best, your money now is in Sterling though at a great loss yet am glad it is done as the Exchange has since got to 42% and rising I suppose yours was remitted at 40% which was my limits but as have no acct. frm. Homberg now if we purchas head here we shall redraw the money from Dickason & Co., but as I have wrote Wm. which I shall now explain least I did not express myself intelligibly; if you find head in America at a price you like, you may draw the whole money from Dickason, for if we should also purchase what we expect here & draw the money likewise from Dickason, yet we can replace it to them on the ~~first~~ first notice, and give you time to turn your effects into money to repay us, in London or America; therefore what I wish to be understood is that you may appropriate that money say L 1700----in any way you please without having any regard to our intention of making use of it in the purchase of the article here, now I hope I have fully explain'd our meaning, thou may also pursue exactly the same line of conduct with the L 500 stg. & \$500 ~~draw~~ draw on DeBaugue for it if thou can lay it out to advantage & at the same time we shall purchase head with it for thee ~~here~~ here if we can. The ~~made~~ thou propos'd of having the head ~~present~~ had not escap'd my thought before either o you mention'd it, but it cannot be done now as I wrote Wm. hope the addition of a ~~new~~ new which I have mention'd to Sam'l. will affect it; the oil expressed frm. the head that goes from here, you may send to this Port (being a free port) in some of the cask that now contains the head, (~~then~~ attend to this as they are branded) it may then be ship'd frm here to any part of the Kingdom duty free, it being actually oil caught by the French Fishery, but mind it must be the individual oils out of that head. I rec'd a letter frm. my dear Sister Rodman which was truly acceptable please when thou hast opportun't convey our best love her & all the dear family, I intend writing her when I have time, and my communication stock which is very small, will admit, we have just parted with three of our valuable frds. in the Ministry. Benj. is gone with them ~~you~~ expect him back today, yesterday morning we had three other enter our house frm. ~~and~~ Ireland, adw'd Hatton,

[18 Aug 1792]

Mary Dudley & Eliz'h Pimm, my acquaintance & near friends. Thus ^{we are} ~~we are~~ eminently favour'd with line upon line, and I hope to some good effect, their mission has not been to bear the Rod, but rather an encouragement to bear the trials that may attend and endeavour to hold up as a Standard of ^{sure} ~~your~~ Righteousness in all our conduct to this Nation which is rapidly emerging from that state of darkness & Superstition, in which they have been so long held; though this desirable state will not probably be effected with great suffering. I have not time to add the vessell being on the point of sailing but our united love to thee dear Charity & all our relatives & friends in your quarter, in which I am thy affectionate

Wm. Rotch

Dunkirk 9th mo 10th 1792

Dear Mr. Amos's Son,

Dunkirk 9th mo 10th 1792

SAME AS letter #3

William Rotch & Sons

Nantucket

To the care of
William Rotch, Jr.,
New Bedford.

Dunkirk 9th Mo., 10th, 1792

Dear Son Samuele Rodman,

I recd thy acceptable letter of the 7 mo., 24 ult., concluded by Brother Brown, 8th mh, 3d, with one frm dear Eliza & many frm her & others to the family by Trism. Gardner who arrivd here yesterday towards evening all well; I shall be able to make but short reply as I have much writting on hand & the Post goes out tomorrow mornng. I am pleasd to hear of the safe arrivale of the Ann with so good a passage as 39 days, and that she got to sea so early as the second (2nd) of last month well man'd, I hope thou got plenty of Potatoes or she had better laid longer.- I did not expect Manter would ~~have~~ called for money as he recd the ballance of his first voige say 1309 " " thou must now Note that his whole first voige was paid him here, so that my Note for 70 L odd & all his Nantucket acct remains to come out of the last voige which is but a small portion sold as yet; but I like thy furnishing him with the 40 L - if thou had it to Spare as it must, with my note run on Interest; It was and still is our intent to realize his money in London as soon as the voige is sold. I am very glad to hear that Brocke has so well recoverd, if we were sure he would hold well, I should much regret his not being in one of our vessells, as he is really a good man for the business. I observe thou mentions the difficulties attending collecting the Materials for the New vessell, & the price of 17 dolls pr Tun; my last to thee was to push her forward if she could be done to advantage in 20 months or thereabouts, but on considering it, I was sorry for what I had mentioned, knowing everything could not be well season'd; and now at the high price of 17 dolls I had much rather lay the ~~Ma~~aterials intirely by, let them remain in docke one or two years before she is begun, if thou has not engag'd with Claghorn or if thou has, & he can employ himself otherwise to his satisfaction so as to be willing to relinquish this vessell for the present, I would advise thee to lay her by for some time, even if the Keele & etc. is up it ^{be} may/pay'd over & kept from harm, but in that case provide all the lumber and dont let a stick of it be used on any pretence. I am sorry we ever proposed building her in America as we can under the present state of the

2.

paper medium, get one built in this country much cheaper & abundant & more lasting, except the live Oak & Cedar. I have heretofore wrote thee the Bill remitted by Anthonys was punctually paid & a fine Spec. it was, at the time the livers were due the Exchange was 45 " so that in reality we gained £ 900 Stg. or more.- Reuben Garners debt on our Nantucket Booke, & his Greenland voige with all other transactions were settle here, that thou may ballance them by Cash in the Settlement of his voiges in Dunkirke or let it stand untill we can send thee his whole acct to be put on our Nantucket Booke. Shall looke at & arrange Coffin Whippey's acct as soon as we can, I wish he had furnished his wife, himself so as not to have her call on thee, we owe him nothing but thou must supply her & chagge Interest, when Eben Clarke returns if I live & thinke of it I shall endeavor to get something of him for his father, he like all the rest take up freely here, I wish we could prevent it, & he made a good voige with David Folger & is now gone, his Mate is a likely man for the business.- I have heretofore wrote thee that E. Glover forbids any futher supplies to his mother & family therefore pray send me the acct down to the time thou receives the intelligence of his orders; thou must also settle Cryspus Gardner's note to Lawrence for £ 30 - as we shall have plenty when the Penelope's oil is sold & the Edwards where Calvin was last, I am glad thou hast been able to furnish Thos. with £ 500 Lmd I wrote him to draw on DeBauque for a Thousand, which may now be reduc'd to Six hundred, pray mention it to him, as I shall not have time to write him. The Bill on Dickason was paid long since. I note T. F.'s letter to thee & also his observations on R. B.'s part of the Farm is just; if a joint Tenancy, he must deliver his part to Hussey that will consequently clear him of whatever part R. Bs was of the whole Sum recovered of Hussey, whether Tupper will do any thing or not, it matters nothing to me or Folger, as the whole of that part or near the whole was unpaid; after that the remainder lays with Folger whether £ 12 or £ 100.- if no joint tenancy Barker's heirs & Hussey's must settle it as they can, the remainder as before belongs to Folger. I wish justice to be amply done.- The Mortgag'd Estate at Nantucket is rescued out of the Lion's paw - but this for myself, thou will probably hear more of it from another Quarter. I am glad thou and Eliza do not

make a confident of --- your caution is necessary. The potts to fulfill my former order, by the negligence of Birkbeck & Ball were not ship'd until by the Ruby in the 7th mo. & then they sent many more 60's than I ordered, which I told them we would not take to ourselves unless we could sell them, I now wish there was more 80's as these last are Cast in Moulds, & lighter as well as 2 pr cheaper than those in Loam, they sell in time & and the price thou mentions is enh for them, I expect the Sale is near over but we may keep them as they will not soon perish. - now as to a vessell to bring staves etc. the price thou quotes is much too high, I thought a carrying vessell of 160 Tuns might be got for £ 600 Lmt - but if they remain so high, I wish thee not to purchase one, as we can catch an oppy here and do it much cheaper, but we must have some Staves, Lld. & barrels for the next outfit, & thou must not faile having a quantity procured next winter up the W. River at Hudson or elsewhere, where Elihue Bunker as I wrote thee before mighte buy them for Cash in winter much cheaper than in the Spring, we must have a vessell for this purpose if we, or rather you carry on the fishery, as we cannot depend on the quantity commonly brot to market to supply half the fishery, there are now 36 saile mostly large out of this place, & amny often detained very long for casks, which has not been our case, but for no other reason than the whole of the Maria & Eliza, & Canton's Cargoesbeing put into our Coopers hands for our own vessells; otherwise, we could not have got the vessell to sea. The voiges they are now gone untill a supply from somewhere; Altho the Osprey was too small yet if we had been appriz'd of the high price of vessells in America, she would have done ve y well untill a better had presented. The codfishpr Gardner is very acceptable, pray send us some whenever appty presents; the blue paper is in good time send more when thou can; the Cedar boards are in good time & easy terms, Whenever oppty presents don't miss them; it is astonishing the number of boats that are call'd for, new Adventurers in the fishery encrease the demand; I have many times wishd Ebriah Macy could have had this branch, but it is now too late, we want Logs for boat timber & other parts when oppty, 1000 ft 2 inch planke & some longer 21 feet for keels & gunwales, clear & good, but don't expect any conveyance for sometime.- I am glad thou art making provission for Beef. this article we must have from

America(whether Pork also, I am undetermined) Norwich used to be the best place for Pork. - Broad kind is cheap here 200 bls. Beef will not be too much, indeed another outfit for 8 vessells will require 300 Bbls.- but 80 bs. this fall will do, the rest ought to be purchased in the best season.- as to Head Matter, the price it is at (say the last 8-10) will do very well to manufacture here on acct of the returning oile sold on the Spot; we have purchased some at that for Wm. but at the present exchange say 38,- it will come up pretty high. 420 Stoops, (the tun) at 3-16 -- 1470# at 58 --

-----Stg. 38-13-8

American duty 72 lb Lb 2-19-6 Shipg.

Charge & Stg. perhaps 5 ----- 3-4- 6

Frt----- 2- -

L 43-18-2 when Exchange was 42 it would do much better. I suppose we have about 60 Tuns in our Manufactory for the winter Stocke which is as much as we can well worke.-pray attend to my request of getting a Taut press of the common size furnished compleat, wood and Iron in every part, & ready to send when a good oppty, the bar thou need not get, but the plates thou may.

5th sh

The Falkland is upon Sale, but not Sold, I expect she will sell here better than in America, as severale persons are enquiring after her, if she does not sell this winter coming, it is probable we may send her to thee in the Spring, but is too late now. I must deplore the situation of this fine Kingdom it is dreadfull in the present moment, torents of blood are poured out; the Duke of Brunswick marching a large Army, severale places taken by him, but I much doubt his ever getting to Paris, as such a multitude of people are armed against him, though undisciplind may stop his progress, especially as they are fighting for liberty & not for conquest, we have no thought of leaving this place at present as there is no appearance of its being beseig'd yet, if at all, much will depend on the Foreign Armies success, I hoped their constitution would have been preserved without more bloodshed than what was early done, & that the Nation might have regained tranquility and while at peace deliberately mended the Constitution where it was defective, but all the prospect was vanished, the longest Sword is now to determine it; a Nationale convention is called, the Members are now choosing, they are

to meet I believe the 20th of this mh.- I wish thou would inform Wm as I have not to write him that we are getting the Mary ready as fast as possible for Bedford, Frans Bunker goes out Mr & will take the ld we have bot for him shall put in some Coale, I hope the frt will pay the Expencee L. Coffin, whose head mr we expected to purchase for him, I find is in Beford, pe haps he may pay it there, G. Gibbs, I suppose will act for Haydon.- The Maria arrived three days ago from N. Sheilds, she is finely repaired, much more done than was at first expected near L 500 - she is now well worth L 1000 or L 1200 Stg.- If we had broke her up I do not think she would have come to L 200- her hull I ^{6 sh} believe to be quite as good as when new & will, I apprehend last longer than she has already lasted, she is really fine vessell, her upper decke is raisd to the heighth of Quarter deck, she is now flush & gives better heighth between decks which she much wanted. hope she will be ready for Sea in 10 days - Owen Hillman is Master, we want boat Stearers for her, indeed mates, 2nd mate, & Boat Stearers are much wanted at presente the war will not probably offsett the Fishery, except a Sea War take place . I wrote thee Russia had declard war against France, but I do not hear it confirm'd . please tell Thads Swain I received his letter and will do the best I can for him as to his acct with DeBauque, but have not yet seen them. I exceedingly desire to hear that some favourable negotiations are going forward with the Indians in America. Our valued Hibernian and Philada friends are safely arriv'd in Liverpoole, I did not hear S. Borden was on his way to London, but nothing further . I know thy dear Eliza will not charge me with want of affection in not writing her for so longe space of time, it is very repugnant to my feelings but the multitude of engagements, though not direct in our business, has hitherto prevented, but I hope to do it soon. Benjn went with the last friend that visited us to Dover intendg no further when he went from home, but the knew no how to part with each other, & he went to Guernsey with them they had a dangerous passage & he much exposed but got safe, Have heard nothing of them since their arrivale there, but we daily looke for his return; I was glad he went with them as he really needed some relaxation. I believe I have now run through thy letter and do not recollect anything further to remarke at present. I

Have heretofore mentiond the Dianna had 700 Barls when Frans Bunker left her, who lost his vessell the Cato in coming into harbour, but a saving to the Owner as she was insured in London. Cargo saved 680 bls. whale oile- a dreadfull massacre tooke place in Paris on the 2nd inst, the populace on those confind in the severale prisons, ~~for~~ Crimes against the State, or being mimicale to the Constitution; they appointed twelve persons to try them, those for Debt or small crimes were releas'd but under the dreadfull triale, it is said several thousands fell victims to popularrage, among which were a great number of the Clergy, I omit say more on the Subject, the thought is enoh almost to chill our veins; I sincerely wish nothing of the kind may again happen, but the terrible threatening manifested of the Duke of Cromwall greatly irritated the people, indeed it is a strange composition and I apprehend must have a direct tendency to frustrate his own intention therein, where innocent persons are equally liable to suffer by his threatend punis hment & devastation. the combination of the Powers of Europe against France is in my opinion a horid plan & i hope they will be frustrated; yet not by the shocking means that I have mentioned above, for such conduct must add many Enemies to the Nation; but I desire to close the Scene as a well wisher to peace and good Government, the Civile and Religious Liberty of the subject under whatever form it may be administered. I wish thee to communicate my love particularly to my aged uncle, F. M. & Aunt, Aunt Deborah & her husband, D. Green Cousins Jonn. & Louis with all my near relatives & such friends as thou thinke will accept it B. Worth & Tillet & Phbe & Elly- with an almost unbounded portion to self & Eliza with the Children in which our whole family present unite. Benj. not yet returned from Guernsey.

Thy affe father

W Rotch

Dunkirk 9th mo 30th 1792

Same as letter #4

William Rotch & Sons

Nantucket

9th page starts 10th mo. 2nd 1792

Dunkirk 9th mo 30th 1792

My dear son Samuel Rodman,

I wrote thee the 10th Inst via London to the care of T. D. & Co, to forward pr first oppy for Boston or New Yorke , in answer to thine of the 7th mh 24th concluded by Brother Brown 8th mh. 3 pr the America S Gardner who arrivd safe the 9th after a passage of 32 days; and as my letter may miscarry or this reach thee at an earlier period, I shall make a repetition of what I then wrote as to business, according to my minutes, as i keep no copies of letters to thee in the generale----- as to the New Ship, I have wrote forward and backward, about putting her forward & keeping her backe as circumstances might take place; but now I believe I am fully fixed; if thou has not agreed with Claghorn, or if thou hast; and he can find sufficient employ to his satisfaction, I wish thee to lay her intirely by for the present, collect all the Timber of every kind, keep it all in dock that isnecessary (the Cedar I suppose is not necessary to put in water but that thou can find) and not let a sticke be used on any pretense whatever untill we see a more favorable time for building - for altho 17 ds. may be as low as Claghorn can build, yet it is too much for us to give, if he has begun her, got her keele & etc laid & some of the timber on, it may stand, & be paid over after season'd, this will be my full determination if thou can settle the matter with Claghorn to his satisfaction; as I find it will be impossible to get her wall seasoned and built to take us out to America at the time we hope to be ready if life & health is continued, therefore shall something further of a vessell before I close. I am glad thou proposes to engage 200 Bars of Beef at Norwich wch was the best place before the war, & probably may be now, we shall want, in the whole, for another outfit 300 Barls as this article must come from America so long as we pursue the fishery from here, it now costs about 6% real Stg put up here; 30 barls will answer for the present year, as we shall expect only the Dianna & Lydia by next winter or perhaps the Canton may be added in the Spring, but the whole would be purchased at the best season the present year or the next Spring; Porke I cannot yet determine whether it must come from America or not, It is the same price af Beef here, but as the war has greatly

encreased the price of both I suppose we must have porke also from America. the c
 cedar boards pr Garner are in good time & goodterms; whenever such oppty occurs
 dont miss them; some goodLogs for Boat timber we also want much, one third of common
 logs cut for fire wood that would split well would do, & come cheaper, some stems
 & knees, but the knees must be such as are got for under knees as among these will be
 found enh for upper knees- 1000 feet of good 2 Inch planke for keele & gunwales also
 is wanted fm 21 & more feet long but above all thou must be attentive to Staves, both
 lld & Barrele as this market is not one-half supplied for the fishery, many are oblig-
 ed to wait long for Casks , & send abroad for them; this would have been our case if
 we had not have had the whole of the Maria & Eliza's & Cantons cargoes reserv'd for
 our own use; we must have a vessell constantly employ'd between this & America so long
 as you continue the fishery here, altho the vessell cannot gain much , yet I expect 3rd
 she may keep herself in repair & pay Int of money & Insure, indeed if that cannot be sht.
 done the fishery cannot be pursued without it, unless by greater disadvantage arise
 otherways; 1200 Tuns of Casks if the vessells are successful will not more than furn-
 ish our 8 vessells; which is $\frac{3}{4}$ more than we can depend on for Staves by common import-
 ation, & the fishery by new adventures greatly encreasing, there being now out & fitt-
 ing 36 Saile from this place, almost all large Ships fm 200 to 400 Tuns Carpenter's
 measurement, but I had no Idea that vessells had risen to the price thou mentioned for
 I Codmans Brig wch is much too high, Hope thou'll not give more than £ 900 Stg for her;
 if we had suspected that vessells would have been so high in America we should as thou
 mention, have kept the Osprey for the purpose untill a better had presented, but having
 as much Navigation in the fishery as wethot prudent were glad to sell her to cousin
 I. S. $\frac{3}{4}$ & W. Morse $\frac{1}{4}$ & Benj. being so over pressed with business at that time, hav-
 ing 5 on hand; we could not think of ading her to the burthen. the fish & paper are
 very acceptable, please send more when opptn & the price of the paper that we may see
 whether it is better to get it made to patern in this country or have it from America.--

As I mentiond by severale conveyances, that the Bill from Anthony was punctual-
 ly paid, & that thy Bill on Dickason & Co is also discharged, and also that thou might
 pay G. Lawrence Crispus's order for £ 30 Lmd there will with his former bale be consid-

erable money in our hands when Calven & Franklins last voiges are settled, though they spent more than I wishd. indeed, it is great mortification to us to have Minors to deal with here when we know the power of their voiges is in their own hands, not that many take that advantage, yet we cannot do as we would if the Laws were different. When Eben Clarke returns, I wshall try to get something for his father, he made a good voige with David Folger since he went in the Hope & is now gone Folgers Mate, is a likely young man for business. I have also severale times mentioned the Ezehe Glover forbids any further supplies to his mother or family, therefore, please to send the Acct to the time thou receives that intlligence & the supplies ceases. Reun Gardner Nantucket acct & Greenland voige are both settled in his acct here. I shall when time looke into Coffin Whippey's Acct & endeavor to get it right; I was in hopes he would have supplied his wife himself as we owe him nothing, but thou may furnish her & when a sum worth drawing for, draw a Sterling bill on Debauques for him to be placd to our Acct - charge interest.

I did not expect B. Manter would have call'd on thee for money, as we paid him 1300 Livers ballance of his first voige; when his present voige is sold which is going of but slowly, we were (by our own advice to him) as he said, to place the money in London; but we don't matter the advances as they must be on interest, unless destruction should attend his voige which we hope not; thou must observe the whole of his first voige has been pd him here, so that all his Nantucket advances with my, or the Comp's note of 70 odd pounds on Interest is to come out of his last voige but supply his family as they waht. I am glad thou hast been able to furnish Thos. with L 500 Lmd, before I recd this information I had written him to draw L 1000 Stg on D. B's - which may now be reduced to L 600. - I observe _____ is not your visitor, not having thine nor EEs confidence, I am you are cautious in that respect, believe, a confident ought to be more than I could do, or you ought to do on that person. The Falkland is on sale but not sold, severale are enquiring for her & I hope we shall dispose of her, if not shall be glad to send her to thee when oppy offers but too late

this year. I duly observe what thou mention respectg T Folgers affair with O H--
& also what he himself says on the subject; as soon as thou has ascertaind the state
of the Law respectg Joint tenancy, the matter will be plain and conclusive, relative
to that pt wch R Barker own'd, I do not expect the late law will operate anytime be-
yond its promulgation, tho in this case could wish it had done, so as to have destroy-
ed it, which would have brought this estate within the compass of Husseys & Barkers
heirs, when neither Folger nor Tupper would have had anything to do with it; but I
expect it will be found otherwise; if so Folger as he seems ready to do must give
Husseys heirs a quit claim; which must be accompanied with a discharge from Huss ey,
to Folger of a Sum, the due proportion of his part of that Estate, which I fear/shall
not be able to convey my meaning for want of knowing the sum the whole Estate first
cost(of which I suppose Barker was $a\frac{1}{4}$) & the sum recovered of Hussey- but I will
suppose the whole Estate L 800 ---($200lb\ \frac{1}{4}$) and that by compound interest & law charges
L 600- was recovered of Hussey, now Hussey & Tupper had dischargd their say 400- &
Folger a part of his we will say

	150
	550

so that there was due only 250- of this 200 frm Barker & 50 frm Folger, but L 600
was received of Hussey- of which $\frac{4}{5}$ say L 480 would be due frm Barker & $\frac{1}{5}$ say
L 120-from Folger- now if the joint Tenancy is good; if $\frac{1}{2}$ Barker now fall to Folger
his giving a quit claim to Hussey must discharge him frm all his part of Barkers
deficiency; and paying his own deficiency say L 120-- must discharge him I thinke
inequity in every respect, but whether I am right or not in my congecture I cannot tell;
but see nothing amiss at present upon the above plan of calculation, only the sums a re
proposed, instead of the reale Sum--- as Folger proposes Geo. Ramsdle to have power
to make the division between him & Tupper, I wish it may be done, if I have not left
power with thee in this particular(wch I do not remember) Wm has my power for convey-
ing Reale Estate, pray have it done as soon as may be , desire G. R. to employ some
honest understanding men to make the Division that I T may get no advantage if an
athorny is necessary, Generale Wm Lithgow was employ'd by me in recoverg the Estate
frm I T. when he had got possession of it. I do not see in the foregoing case that

5/

anything need be said by thee to Dr Tupper, let him do as he will; if any part belongs to Folger, he can convey that part, or rather give a quit claim (which I should prefer) & if none belongs to him, he has nothing to do but to settle his own private part according to equity.--- our last pots went by the Ruby but I find I order'd too many 60's & B & B ship'd more of that kind than I orderd; I told them we would not take them unless we could use them; which they agreed to, notwithstanding they are now imported by others, I intend orderg some more 80's- as they are now cast in mould, (our exclusive right having had the mould made at our expense), they are lighter than those in Loam & 2 pr Llb cheaper, that the price thou quotes will do very well for them; and if they lay on hand a while they'll not perish. --- I am very glad the Ann Arriv'd safe with so good a passage, and that the Mr long enh ashore to prepare him for another long voige, she will be in good time for all the Season on the Brazile Coast, I hope she had 2 large Spare pots--- I deplore the state of our Country being engaged in an Indian war, which doubtless is unjust, ~~as~~ I suppose its by encraachment, am sorry there should appear any necessity for sadling commerce with additional burthens, for as thou observes ^{7th Sh.} it seems to be the disposition of all nations rather to increase oppressions than lighten it; indeed it is really aggravating to see how the labour of the poor is lavish'd almost unboundedly on the dissipated rich, as it is in England, in passing through that Country many Objects of this kind present to view; too much to reconcile, or even to bear if there was any remedy; but there seems none at present without great confussion & bloodshed; which I desire may never take place. I wish thee to keep me advised of the State of our funds, if they seem permanent & the people satisfied, I should like to have something plac'd there if it will bring 5 to 6 pr Cr. what little we have in Engd is not on Int. nor can I tell where to place it with any safety, the Funds I do not like, & good private hands cannot be founf, we have once narrowly escaped in the latter.

In my writing thee will observe I have no method altho I ought to have, but mix business with other matters just as it comes into my mind, but I have not time to attend to regularity in this respect, therefore thou must take it as it comes. -

I have severale times wrote thee for a Taught press of the common size to be compleat in every respect finish'd wood & Iron, except the bar, which pray attend to, indeed if

we had two it would not be amiss but one first and as soon as maybe----- if I should omit writing to Thad. Swain, pray tell him I applied to DeBauque on business who inform me they will settle it to his satisfaction, I desired them to remit his money to Harrison Ansley & Co which they will do & I imagine he will be chargd but 32 " per 2 % Stg by their saying they should do it to his satisfaction it is now 38 ". Our valued Hibernian & Phatad frd arriv'd safe at Liverpoole & I Emlin gone to Ireland (suppose with the women) to attend to the funerale of our much valued friend, and one of my particular acquaintance, Richd Shackelton, whose removal will be much missed by Society he was not in the Ministry but a valuable Elder much concern'd in promoting the great Cause & well adapted to the various services of the Church, he has left a valuable widdow & Childn all bending the right way, one or two in the Ministry. ----- as to the head mr. it will do very well here on acct of the value of oile extracted, but at 3.10 - wch is the price we gave for what we have purchased for Wm at the present exch. 38" it will come up to the near price given in America.----- please to keep intire all the timber that was prepar'd for the Maria, as we shall probably want it to repair one of our vessells on the return from the present voige-- I intended sayg something more about another vessell as I hinted in the first part of this letter, but shall lay all thoughts of it by for the present; only for thee still to get a cheap carrying vessell when thou can & send a ton of staves . 10th mth 2nd I recd last eveng a letter frm Brother Starbucke they arrived safe at Milford the 23 rd inst a passage of 24 days all well except the women being much fatigued with the voige expect they will soon recover ; frm the present situation of public affairs I have advised Sammy not to bring his family this year. I expect thou had the account of the Diannas being full at Walwick Bay by Capn Blacke of Providence who was also full, before they reach'd us, they were to leave the Bay the 20th of 7 mh we shall looke for her in 10 days, our young Capn has doubless stop'd the snears of some . this acct was dated 7mth 15th another of the 28th- gives us a pleasing acct of the Canton having got into the Bay & got 200 Bs. & a whale alongside, great success if she obtained it all there, as she could not have been in the Bay more than 13 days, & perhaps not so many, that we have some hope

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she will fill there if the whales continue the usual time; the Dianna cannot save the return of primium as 12 months will be out tomorrow, which I thinke was the time limitted, the Canton has a good prospect for it, Thad Coffin & David Swain were also full -- I understand you have a Post office erected at Nantucket, but/9th sh. considering whose directione it must be under, I hope our letters from here find their way without passing through that Channele; though I write nothing that I am affraid or asham'd of, yet we dont wish our family concerns should be exposed--

10th mh 2d ----- I shall say very little on public matters as somethings are too horrible to relate, the dreadfull Massacre in the Capitole & its invirons, with some other places is too much for a feeling heart to relate; Jnth Marcelliae (who with his wife is now with us in their way to England) being then in Paris, told me he counted 173 dead bodies in the Streets as he passed in the course of about three Quarters of an hour; which was but a small proportion to what might have been seen in other parts, the Murderd in the Prisons & elsewhere were supposed to be severale thousand; the abominable Interment that set this on foot, is now one of the Nationale Convention, and I am glad to find that almost the whole assembly are disgusted with his being of their Body & great severity has been poured out upon him there calle for a decree of accusation against him, but others I suppose fearing it will make too great a Stir have put it by for the present; but I send thee & Wm the Papers French & Englishe, the latter has exagerated, perhaps as much as the other has suppressed. the War approaches us, Lile is beseiged, its a very strong Town about 48 miles from us, the Cannon are heard here in a still night, about 20,000 Austrians are before it, but if no treachery, is supos'd to be able to sustain a seige of severale months against an army of 60,000, they throw in Barreles & Red hot shot by which a Church(so called) & about 25 houses have been burnt-to yesterday --about 6000 women & children were sent out of the Town yesterday, some of whom have reachd this Town & others elsewhere, this I intend by the Mary for Bedford, onboard of this vessell is a quanty. of Grindstones I believe near 300-- by taking the whole we got them at

8/

at little more than the prime cost in the North where they were made we have proposed their being divided between us & Wm but you may regulate it otherwise if you thinke proper----- I have been very desirous to get Eight or Ten Thousand pounds Stg in England thence to America, but we have had so many calls, that what we had there I believe is now reduc'd to about 3300 L----- but if no destruction takes place of our property here, I expect we shall be able to add out of the Penelope & Hope voiges about L 3700 --- more clear of what we shall want when the Maria gets to sea, which we expect will be in three days, when all our vessells will be out, & if they return successfull will I hope as to me wind up very well, I say to me because as I wrote thee I wish at that period to quit business; but great changes may take place before that period, we have no war by sea yet, which I wish may continue; it is daily expected that Spain & all Germany will declare war against France, the Diet of Ratisbon is supposed have concluded on this measure; Russia is marching its forces, from Poland, Switzerland I fear will be added to the number on acct of the late Massacre of many of their officers; & France have declar'd against the King of Sardinia, have marched an Army into his Dominion, his Army has fled before them & many of the Town have open'd their gates & desire to be under the French Government, but as they have declared against War for conquest, they propose only setting the people free from their King & for themselves to form a Republic or any other Government except a Monarchy they may choose. DuBarques have sold some of the Hopes oil but cannot say how much perhaps @ $\frac{1}{4}$ 36, and all the Bone at ~~4~~ 32 I wish it had all been run off before the danger that seems approaching but we must now wait the events .-----
& 10 or 12 doz of his lances pray send us no more of another sort of harpoons, it will be necessary to procure some more of Sweet's harpoons, like some that came in the Osprey, they may be good but they looke bad, we have parted with the most of them, not caring to put them into our own vessells, we may also want 2000 feet of good Oars none less than 16 feet and to 172 to 18- & Stearg Oars 21 to 21 %. -- a few harpoons poles to be provided when easy to be done & good-- perhaps 300--- the repairs of the Maria come to much more than we expected, she was found very rotten on full examination

9/

I thinke I wrote thee after I saw her at Shields that we thought she would not exceed
£ 300 Stg but we find it more than double that sum, but not having collected all
the expence cannot ascertain it at present, our consolation is she is exceedg well done
& will probably last ten years with very little repairs, & now ready for a voige in
good season except one month too late.-- I do not recollect anything more to mention
res^pectg our common business - its probable when B C- returns he will re new his de-
mand, & let him have his right, there is the 600 & odd livers pd him by DeBarque &
charg'd us is now taken frm our acct & placed to his, & perhaps some other matters ,
that may be right, but the Charge of 700 & odd I thinke thou has his Bill & rect.--
as to the Oile & wine I suppose they are made up acct to cheat us out of something,
but where ever there is any shaddow for a just demand, leave it men with him, I hate
the, Law, but if nothing else will do for him, we are ~~an~~ on the defensive. I hope thou
tooke care to pay Sullivan the last half which he was to have when the former matter
was ended, I suppose thou knew the Sum; thou never mentioned to me how that villanous
matter of B. Barnard & Warders terminated, as the securities arose to their full
value there needed no loss unless villany tooke the seat of Justice-- Benjn & Eliza
proposes setting off for England the latter end of this weeke on a visit, which we
are glad to encourage; I believe I mentioned in my letter to Eliza the dangerous
passage he had with the last friends that visited us in going ~~from~~ Engd to Germany,
they went in a storm which increas'd so much that for a time they saw no prospect of
surving it, but Providentially landed safe.-----

I can say no more at present but that I am as at all times thy affectionate
father

Wm Rotch

P.S. I did not mention that the first acct of the New Convention after being organ-
ized was to abolish Monarchy, & Declare this Country to be a Republic, they are now
about forming a new Constitution, which if they return their Liberty will probably
center in the American form of Government. -----

please to deliver unkle Frank Macy 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ Barls flour from his Son Frank, no acct to be
made of it , as it for so much supplied one of our vessells by one of his at Sea

[30 Sept 1792]

Dunkirke 10th mo 2nd 1792
12th sheet of orig. letter cont.

10/

4th-- the force before Libe^{is} greater than we imagine there is 31,000 men, they have thrown into Libe 500,000 pounds wth of Iron have 9 batters erected of 6 Guns each 15 to 33 ball-- Lile has sent them in return 57,000 cannon Balls they have 130 men killed, I am anxious for that place as much depends on the event of this seige repecting our Tranquility it is reinforced by 6000 men, but I fear for it --- 100 houses burnt in Lile up to the last acct.

Thomas Kitch, New Bedford

the Mary
and Bunker.

Dunkirk 9th mo, 30th, 1792

SAME AS letter #5

My dear Son Thomas

My last to thee was the 18th ult. ^{case of} Caleb Gardner via Newbury Port, in which if I remember right I directed thee to draw on DeBaques for One Thousand pounds Sterg. when thou could apply it to advantage, & the exchange was favourable, since which I find by Samuel he had pd. thee or provided L 500 or thereabouts; therefore I now wish thee to reduce thy draft to Six Hundred altho the L 500 is not thy share of profit, yet is more that thy proportion of what remains unappropriated; the remaining profits being added to the Stock, thou will have thy portion of this appropriation in the advantage that may arise, the L 600 stg. being on acct. of the Stocks I proposed furnishing thee with. Wm. has advis'd me of the manner you have divided the money paid by Fleming, which it quite agreeable to me. I believe I mention'd to thee that I had desired Homberg not to ship Wm & thee the Goods you order'd on acct. of the money you had in their hands, having a prospect then of investing the whole into head matter, expecting the preference of Coffin (who we find arriv'd at Bedford & perhaps it may fall into yr. hands there) and another of W. Heyland ships which has not yet arriv'd, waiting for these vessells we have kept the Mary, untill now---you will have by her a Small Stock wch. if she arrives safe home with what you may purchase in America may ~~perish~~ furnish you a tolerable quant^y the rem'r of your money, which was in Hombergs hands I have long since inform'd Wm. was lodg'd in Dickason & Co. hands in London for your appropriation. I can give thee nothing pleasing in our present situation, except being favour'd with health, which is truly one of the choicest Blessings of this life for its continuation I desire ever to be impressed with thankfulness; as to the present state of this fine Country, I must refer thee to the public papers, French & English, for the accounts, though doubly imperfect, for the Stream of Blood that lately has been open'd; dreadfull indeed in the Extremes; as the National convention meets about this time, I wish they may strike out some mode to restore the Nation from its present agitated State, and that cool deliberation may take place to produce tranquility; its not improbable but a new constitution may be form'd on the American plan; the Confederacy against France of almost all the Powers of Europe is very Strong, a powerfull Army is now in the Kingdom, but I think ~~this~~ the Duke of Brunswick will not easily reach Paris, unless the present jealousy and divisions continue; in this case no human calculation can be made even with much probability-----I know our near relatives & friends will be under great concern for us, but I wish them not to afflict themselves, its true our lot is uncertain, but sh ll endeavour to conduct with as much prudence as shall be afforded, we are at present quiet here, and have no reason to expect this place will be besieg'd, unless the City of Lille (about 48 miles from here) which is very strong, should be attack'd & taken. It is not yet invaded, though there are apprehensions for its safety; if that should be subdued, its not improbable but we may have a visit, if it should be the case its likely we may remove, but we are unwilling to flee without real danger appears, at present I believe our family our favour'd with a degree of calmness, that I hope will not desert us; trials of a severe kind we have had and I still expect will be our portion; may we be favour'd to lay up something in Store against the storm that may assail, that we may hope for some shelter under that munition of Rocks against which the shafts of the wicked shall not prevail. In the midst of all the commotions, and disagreeable of prospects, we have the consolation to find we are not forgotten, by Him who is waiting to be Gracious to the workmanship of his hands, in concerning his dignified Servants to come and see how we fare, who have not been wanting in counsel, in admonition, in warning, & in encouragement, the stream of their Ministry has mostly run in the last channels, many times to our great consolation and confirmation that we are not so much out of as I believe many of our friends (if they may justly stand under that

250 Sept 1792

appellation) in America or rather in our native Island may apprehend; this alone has contributed much to render our separation less disagreeable; indeed had their communications been of a contrary nature, our long separation from you I believe would have been by this day almost intolerable but from many circumstances, is made more easy than I could have expected, and sometimes a little hope is rais'd that we may be permitted to meet you again in our own land, but as this is hid in the secrets of best wisdom, I am not anxious to know what is wisely plac'd beyond the limits of finite Beings; if we should be favoured to see you again I believe it will not be at the period I proposed when we left America, as I see if our vessels return well I cannot complete that much desir'd part of my business, to entirely quit the concern myself timely to get out in the best season next year, and I am very unwilling to leave any thing unadjusted, that may hang upon my mind, and thereby render it less capable if the necessary attention to things of much greater importance; as business has long since been a burthen to me, I am very desirous of extricating myself ~~from~~ wholly from it; that whether my stay here may be longer or shorter, or whether I should be favour'd to reach America I may be preserv'd in that allotment, whatever it may be, design'd by the Great Master, whether to suffer or reign that all may tend to his glory. -----10th mo, 2'd---Lille has been besieged several days by about 20,000 Austrians, but it is expected it can sustain a seige of a much greater number for Six months; we are within hearing of the Cannon in a still night which was the case last night which was the case last evening.

I rec'd a letter last evening from Brother Starbuck they arrived safe at Milford Haven the 20th In's. all well except the fatigue of the passage(24 days only) to the women, which had not recover'd.

I have not time to enlarge but am with endeared love to thee thy dear Charity, Tomy & Nancy J^{rs}. & Patience with our other relations, thy affectionate father

Wm. Rotch

P.S. Please forward inclosed to thy dear Mother . The Dianna is full & daily expect'd, the Canton had 250 W^hale,

SAMU AS letter #6
w/o last page
Dunkirk, 10th mo. 1, 1792

My Dear Daughter,

I have for some time committed a kind of unavoidable violence upon my inclination, in suffering such an interval to pass between my communications to thee; my last being in the 12th mo. by G. Swain; but I know thy disposition will not admit thy attributing it to any diminution of Paternal regard, which renders it unnecessary to detail the various intervening causes that have contributed to this long silence; as there is an intercourse in the Spiritual family beyond the power of human eloquence; like deep calling unto deep; which neither sea nor land, time nor space can deprive us of. I hope we are at times in some measure sharers therein.

Thy late severe illness filled our minds with unutterable anxiety, and for thy restoration thus far, may we unitedly acknowledge with thankfulness to the Author of all blessings, that His mercy is still extended to us. I wish it may be an incitement to us all to be diligent in making our calling and election sure. I am sensible from the repeated accounts you have and will have of the situation of this Kingdom, that your apprehensions for our safety will produce much inquietude, but don't be disturbed; though dreadful, indeed, have been the scenes of late at the capitol and some other places, which have pretty much subsided at present; we yet remain quiet here, and I hope shall not be attached, at least this year, its possible though not very probable that by the Spring some change for the better may take place. We are unwilling to quit the town unless eminent danger appears, which if should be the case hope we may be

favoured to act with propriety, but dont be uneasy for us; perhaps in fleeing from a lion a bear may meet us.

I received thy acceptable letter of the 12th mo. long since and one of the 7th mo. 31 by Trism. Gardner, both which I have perused and re-perused with great satisfaction; I well know thou must have very sensibly felt the want of thy dear Mother, especially in thy last illness, but were much comforted in finding thy mind was attended with so much patience, resignation and quietude, invaluable companions, in dispensations of affections; a Rock and Refuge in every storm that may be permitted. It was an additional favour in having the company and kind attendance of this dear sister Sarah, (for whom we are now anxious to hear, respecting her illness, as she was only on the recovery by our last letter) she with the rest are affectionately near to us. I hope with thee that we may be permitted once more to meet in our native land, but I fear it will a little exceed the time we proposed when we left America, as one of the objects which drew me hither cannot be completed until the return of the vessels now out, if they should return well. and that is; a full settlement of our business here so far as respects myself, that I may wholly withdraw from it, believing it is time for such a step, and although I have no active part in it, yet in the present state of this country, my mind is necessarily engaged, to save, but not to get; and the grasshopper (comparatively) as to business hath long since become a burthen, but be assured notwithstanding my attachment to England, it is still stronger for America; there is nothing in Europe that can invite us to a longer stay, than necessity shall

require; no future prospects of outward things can compensate for our separation beyond the time that shall appear to be right, but should our detention exceed our expectation don't be uneasy. I have been somewhat accustomed to disappointments for this seventeen years past my life has not experienced much indulgence under the rays of a bright sun, nor has my rest been often on beds of down, but have rather been much exposed to many storms upon this tempestuous sea of life, subjected to many perils and not wholly exempt from that of false brethren, but my desire is to endeavour to render good for evil. this can only produce peace; that peace which the world is a stranger to, while I am favoured with this disposition it reconciles many trials that attend, it makes hard things easy and bitter things sweet, and what matter is it if we meet with many probations, if they have but their proper operation to bring us nearer to that city whose walls are salvation and gates praise. We have indeed been subjected to some close trials, some untrodden paths to tread in this place, where the precious testimony hath been deeply concerned but all has ended well thus far. Greater we may probably yet meet with, in which I only crave the blessing of preservation; that we may answer the great end of our Creation, and in the end find an admittance in the Mansion of Eternal bliss, where the wicked cease from troubling and the weary are at rest.

Lydia and myself spent about 11 weeks of the summer in England. we made a visit to several Q. of N. Y., in the north. I had sometime wished this opportunity for her, which I believe has terminated not only to her satisfaction but

